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Magnificent Socceroos down Serbia but go out

By Roy Hay

So the miracle we needed did not happen and Australia's World Cup effort came to an end after a magnificent effort against Serbia in Nelspruit in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Against a team with the highest technical qualities, which had sailed through its qualifying games, Australian spirit and skill combined to secure a narrow, but decisive, victory.

One could analyse the what-ifs forever without satisfaction, so let's concentrate on the positives from this match and the group stage as a whole. The games against Ghana and Serbia showed that Australia, while possibly still being marginally down on composure on the ball, and prone to concede needless free kicks, has the organisational capacity to nullify these deficiencies.

The players who came in seemed to me to offer optimism for the future as they fitted seamlessly into the structure and showed lots of confidence in their roles and their own capacities.

The idea that we will go backwards as some long serving players depart seems less likely.

The New Zealand experience should cause a rethink about the standard of the best of the A-League players.

There will be a change in personnel for the Asian championships in January and this should be an opportunity for a mixture of local and overseas players to keep the standard high.

When it comes to the individuals there was a lot to praise.

Mark Schwarzer spilled a difficult shot near the end but otherwise kept Australia in the game with a string of fine, strong-handed saves.

He may not be around for Brazil in 2014, but I would not bet against it and he will ensure that the keeper who succeeds him will have to be of the highest quality.

Michael Beauchamp came in to a cauldron and survived.

He should have cemented the succession to Craig Moore, who can bow out with the memory of a superb effort against Ghana to add to long service to Australia.



Josh Kennedy is sent sprawling after a heavy challenge from Serbia's Dejan Stankovic, as Nemanja Vidic prepares to pounce on the loose ball.
PHOTO: SMP IMAGES

Luke Wilkshire was excellent once again, probably Australia's best and most consistent player. Having done his groin late in the second half, it is good that he will have time to recover for his domestic season.

David Carney was roasted by Nikola Krasic early on, but eventually contributed well, especially going forward in the second half.

Holman, now that he has got two

goals at the top level, should be a fixture from now on and has converted those like me who thought he might be the nearly man.

A new coach should revisit the Kennedy-McDonald pairing, which worked for the Joeys many years ago and would take some of the pressure off the marvellous Tim Cahill.

Cahill should have learned that tackles from behind are not worthwhile. Since we are no longer competing in

South Africa, we might see Tim in an Everton top in Australia next month. That would be worthwhile.

Carl Valeri has succeeded Vince Grella, Richard Garcia is worth an extended run, and Nikita Rukavytsya should also get more game time.

Lucas Neill has led from the back and the front. He may still give you the odd palpitation and he flirts with disaster when he tries to play offside against speedy attackers, but he epitomises the qualities required in a leader of a football team.

Going into the tournament I hoped, but did not expect, Australia would get out of its group. So I cannot be disappointed and I have thoroughly enjoyed the response since the opening disaster against Germany.

SOCCEROO TOURNAMENT PLAYER RATINGS

By Jacob Kagi

Mark Schwarzer: 6 – Had some good moments, particularly against Ghana. But it's a concern when a goalkeeper is at fault for two goals in three matches, the second against Germany and the one against Serbia.

Luke Wilkshire: 7 – If only he'd put the ball that led to Ghana's penalty and Harry Kewell's red card out when he had the chance. Apart from that, he was comfortable defensively and useful going forward. One of Australia's better players.

Lucas Neill: 6 – Abysmal against Germany, where he showed no leadership by abusing referees and linesman for correct decisions. Improved significantly against Ghana and Serbia though, with assured performances in both.

Craig Moore: 4 – Recovered from a horrible performance against Germany to somewhat improve against Ghana, before he was suspended for

the last game. Surely this will be his last major tournament for the Socceroos, at age 35 he doesn't look up to international football anymore.

Michael Beauchamp: 7 – Filled in for Moore against Serbia admirably, looking comfortable and assured. Will compete with the likes of Rhys Williams, Mark Milligan and Patrick Kisnorbo for the second central defensive spot for the next campaign.

David Carney: 4 – Looked unconvincing and unstable defensively against Ghana and didn't really improve against Serbia. Not a long-term option at left-back.

Scott Chipperfield: 5 – Disappointing in his start at left-back against Germany, but did reasonably well in a more attacking role as a substitute in the next two games.

Vince Grella: 3 – It's amazing to think Australia's best player in 2006 was probably its worst in 2010. Woeful against Germany, looking as if he didn't want to be there as he made rash tackles, didn't work hard and

didn't protect the back four, before missing the next two with injury. Has been surpassed by Carl Valeri and his time is over.

Jason Culina: 4 – It was always concerning that a player who didn't stand out in the last A-League season was going to be a starter at the World Cup, and those concerns were justified. Consistently gave the ball away and didn't work well enough to close down opposition breaks. It's time to look at other options in central midfield.

Carl Valeri: 8 – Australia's best player throughout the tournament. Worked tirelessly to limit space and opposition ball movement, despite a lack of support from his midfield partners, and was decent on the ball too. Is a massive part of the Socceroos' future.

Mile Jedinak: 5 – Minimal involvement in the tournament, coming on with just 16 minutes left against Germany. Didn't really impress in that outing though.

Mark Bresciano: 6 – Decent in both his starts, although Australian fans may have expected more. He got himself involved, but his ball skills let him down in the final third too much.

Brett Holman: 8 – All the criticism of his early years may have been justified, but Holman had a wonderful tournament and will be a big player for the Socceroos in the coming years. Scored two of Australia's three goals and the team looked much better with him on the park, yet he stunningly didn't start against Serbia.

Brett Emerton: 5 – Certainly didn't save his best performances in the green and gold for the World Cup. Wasn't bad against Germany, but was frustrating with his poor delivery against Ghana and not involved enough against Serbia. Needed to do more tracking back as well.

Tim Cahill: 7 – The criticism of his performance against Germany was far too harsh, given the circumstances. His sending off in that game was unfair but he recovered with a great

game against Serbia, getting his third World Cup goal.

Richard Garcia: 4 – Simply looked out of his depth in his start against Germany and didn't offer much as a substitute against Serbia.

Harry Kewell: 5 – Looked good in every minute he played in the tournament, all 28 of them. Can't be faulted for his red card, which was a reflex action, but Australian fans had much higher expectations. One has to wonder if he'll play for Australia again.

Josh Kennedy: 5 – Australia's structure looks better when he plays, as seen by how dangerous Australia looked after he came on against Ghana and in his start against Serbia. Disappointed with his ball skills, and at times his work rate as well though.

Nikita Rukavytsya: 6 – Showed some life in his brief cameo appearances, making himself a decent attacking option off the bench with his pace and hard work. Still too raw to be a regular international starter

Gallant Aussies bow out with win

By Russ Gibbs
Ratings by Jacob Kagi

Australia's FIFA World Cup 2010 adventure ended in gallant victory thanks to goals from Tim Cahill and Brett Holman but it wasn't enough to prevent the Socceroos from elimination from the tournament as results elsewhere conspired to send them home.

The 2-1 triumph over a technically sound Serbia was achieved with the kind of spirit and determination that has characterised this generation of Australian players and, at the same time, prevented the Balkan nation from a place in the last sixteen.

With Harry Kewell and Craig Moore suspended Pim Verbeek was forced to reshuffle his pack again for the final Group D match recalling Tim Cahill, back after his mandatory one-match ban for the dismissal against Germany, and giving a start to Michael Beauchamp at the heart of the defence alongside the evergreen skipper Lucas Neill. Up front Josh Kennedy was preferred to Brett Holman as the Socceroos looked to give Serbia's abrasive central defensive stalwart Nemanja Vidic a torrid evening.

There was little hint of what was to come in the opening forty-five minutes in which Serbia looked the more composed unit spraying the infamous 'Jabulanani' around at will and making Australia's midfield work hard to recover possession.

It took only five minutes for Serbia to fire their first shot in anger when Milos Krasic, a dangerous presence throughout the first half, cut in from the right flank and fired a shot towards goal that Mark Schwarzer did well to beat away for a corner.

A frenetic opening to the clash should have seen Serbia take the lead after twelve minutes with Krasic involved again. The blond-haired flyer beat the offside trap and rounded Schwarzer only to fire high and wide from a tight angle after the Australian shot-stopper had done well to force the Serbian attacker away from goal.

Whilst the Socceroos enjoyed their fair share of the ball in the opening half chances were at a premium for the men in Gold with a mistimed Tim Cahill header from a Brett Emerton cross after 32 minutes their only real effort of note. Later in the half Kennedy was unable to get any power behind a similar effort that was easily handled by Vladimir Stojkovic in the Serbia goal.

Meanwhile, at the other end, Australia survived further scares when Branislav Ivanovic forced a smart save from Schwarzer, Dejan Stankovic struck a long-range effort straight down the 'keeper's throat and giant striker Nikola Zigic headed wide when well-placed. Serbia had the ball in the net eight minutes before the interval when the lively Ivanovic slipped a delightful ball through to Krasic who, with the outside of his right boot, flicked the ball past Schwarzer only to be ruled, correctly, offside.

With neither side able to make a breakthrough before half-time the onus was on Australia to come out firing in order to keep alive their slim hopes of progression to the second round. After Beauchamp and Luke Wilkshire had found their way into the referee's notebook for a brace of fouls within sixty seconds of each other at the beginning of the second half the match became a somewhat scrappy affair with a swathe of substitutions slowing the tempo.

Serbia's Milos Ninkovic and Australia's Brett Emerton also earned cautions as the game tilted in the balance. With news of Germany scoring against Ghana



Luke Wilkshire keeps his eye on the ball as he gives Serbia's Milan Javanovic a run for his money.
PHOTO: SMP IMAGES

filtering through the Australian players visibly lifted and produced, arguably, their best spell of football since the 3-1 defeat of Japan at the 2006 Finals sending the Australian fans in the crowd into raptures with a two-goal burst within four minutes of each other.

The Socceroos took the lead in the 68thminute when Tim Cahill arrived, as is his wont, to meet a looping cross from Wilkshire with a trademark thumping header that flashed past Stojkovic and into the net to the joyous relief of a nation. Just four minutes later relief became belief when substitute Brett Holman, introduced only seven minutes previously for the industrious Carl Valeri who put in a terrific performance, struck a wonder-goal.

Collecting a neat Jason Culina backheel flick just inside the Serbian half Holman advanced, unchecked, until thirty metres from goal unleashing a ferocious shot of accuracy and power that left Stojkovic floundering as the ball bulleted past him and into the corner of the net for a brilliant individual effort. The strike was the much-maligned Holman's fourth international goal and his second at this FIFA World Cup Finals.

Stunned by this sudden reversal in fortunes Serbia upped the ante as Australia went searching for more goals. Replacement winger Zoran Tosic buzzed around in effervescent fashion causing havoc to the tiring Australian defence. Fittingly, therefore, it was from a Tosic shot that Serbia got back into the match with six minutes left on the clock.

Racing down the right wing to great effect, Tosic cut inside and fired a shot at goal that appeared to lack the necessary clout to trouble Schwarzer. However, such has been the story of many goalkeepers at the tournament, Australia's number one failed to control the dipping

ball and spilled Tosic's effort into the path of fellow substitute Marko Pantelic who coolly picked his spot to side-foot home from close range.

Within a minute Pantelic had the ball in the net again, controlling a cross before stroking the ball confidently into the corner of the net, only to have his celebrations cut short by the assistant referee who flagged him offside.

Josh Kennedy could have put Australia further in front when creating space for

himself in the penalty area only to screw his effort wide under pressure, before Jason Culina collected a pass on the overlap from David Carney only to fire straight at the 'keeper when a cooler finish was required. It mattered little though as by then the game had entered stoppage time and it was evident that Australia's brave effort would be for naught.

Match Stats			
Australia		Serbia	
17	Shots	23	
7	Shots on target	6	
25	Fouls Committed	10	
5	Corner kicks	6	
0	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	0	
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0	
0 / 0	Penalty Kicks	0 / 0	
1	Offsides	7	
0	Own goals	0	
3	Cautions	2	
0	Expulsions due to Second Caution	0	
0	Direct Expulsions	0	
46%	Possession	54%	
32	Actual playing time	39	

Group D							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	0	1	5	1	6
Ghana	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Australia	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Serbia	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
<i>Germany and Ghana advance to Round of 16.</i>							
<i>Australia and Serbia are eliminated.</i>							

Match Details	
Australia 2 (Tim Cahill 69', Brett Holman 73') Serbia 1 (Marko Pantelic 84')	
Australia (4-2-3-1): 1. Mark Schwarzer, 2. Lucas Neill, 6. Michael Beauchamp, 8. Luke Wilkshire (19. Richard Garcia 82'), 21. David Carney, 5. Jason Culina, 16. Carl Valeri (14. Brett Holman 65'), 7. Brett Emerton, 4. Tim Cahill, 23. Marco Bresciano (11. Scott Chipperfield 66'), 9. Josh Kennedy	
Serbia: (4-3-3): 1. Vladimir Stojkovic, 13. Aleksandar Lukovic, 5. Nemanja Vidic, 6. Branislav Ivanovic, 16. Ivan Obradovic, 10. Dejan Stankovic, 18. Milos Ninkovic, 22. Zdravko Kuzmanovic (8. Darko Lazovic 77'), 17. Milos Krasic (7. Zoran Tosic 62'), 14. Milos Jovanovic, 15. Nikola Zigic (9. Marko Pantelic 67')	
Discipline: YELLOW CARDS: 13. Aleksandar Lukovic, 18. Milos Ninkovic (both Serbia), 6. Michael Beauchamp, 8. Luke Wilkshire, Brett Emerton (all Australia)	
Referee: Jorge Larrionda (Uruguay) Assistant Referees: Pablo Fandino (Uruguay), Mauricio Espinosa (Uruguay) Fourth Official: Carlos Batres (Guatemala)	
Venue: Mbombala Stadium, Nelspruit Attendance: 37, 836	

Mark Schwarzer: 6 – Made some great saves, particularly in the first half, but has to be held responsible for Serbia's goal, which he should have been able to hold or at least push away.

Luke Wilkshire: 7 – Impressive performance. Was solid defensively and had some good moments going forward, as well as putting in some good balls from out wide and set pieces.

Lucas Neill: 8 – Continued his impressive turnaround following his woeful start against Germany with another great display. Led by example and ensured Australia gave Serbia few chances.

Michael Beauchamp: 7 – Had a couple of shaky moments, but was very impressive filling in for Craig Moore. Fitted into the system well and looked calm and composed.

David Carney: 4 – Probably Australia's worst player. Put under consistent pressure and couldn't cope most of the time. If Serbia had been able to put in good crosses when Carney's mistakes gave them opportunities, the result could've been much different.

Carl Valeri: 8 – Continued his great tournament with an imposing display in central midfield. Worked hard, stopped several Serbian attacks and did well on the ball.

Jason Culina: 6 – Still looked a little off the pace, but was better than in his last two outings. Gifted Serbia space by sitting off the ball in midfield, but looked comfortable on the ball.

Brett Emerton: 6 – Should have done more to track back and help Wilkshire and was disappointing with his crosses, but had some good moments even if he wasn't involved enough.

Tim Cahill: 8 – Worked tirelessly and was a constant threat going forward. Looked even better when Brett Holman came on and the team became more attacking.

Marco Bresciano: 7 – Was heavily involved going forward and quite dangerous. Could have used the ball better at times though.

Josh Kennedy: 6 – Looked uncomfortable on the ball and didn't work enough to close down Serbian defenders, but was a threat in the air as usual.

Brett Holman: 9 – Turned the match around by providing Australia with much needed life in midfield, giving the side an extra attacking midfield option to complement Cahill. One has to wonder why he didn't start.

Scott Chipperfield: 6 – Solid in an attacking role, providing some life and putting in some good crosses in almost certainly his last competitive game for Australia.

Richard Garcia: 5 – Far from dangerous in a cameo role. Doesn't look up to top level international football.

SERBIA

Vladimir Stojkovic: 6 – Didn't have much to do outside of the two goals. Can't be blamed for either goal.

Aleksandr Lukovic: 6 – Largely comfortable in the first half, but didn't cope well with Australia's more attacking attitude in the second half.

Nemanja Vidic: 7 – Excellent in the first half but had a couple of poor moments after half-time.

Ivan Obradovic: 6 – The young left-back looked relatively comfortable, although didn't do as much as he needed to going forward.

Branislav Ivanovic: 7 – Dangerous going forward, but missed a great chance he really should have scored. Largely comfortable defensively.

Dejan Stankovic: 7 – One of Serbia's better performers, looking lively and dangerous going forward.

Zdravko Kuzmanovic: 6 – Largely comfortable on the ball but didn't do enough to slow down Australia's attacks.

Milos Ninkovic: 7 – Showed some impressive vision and creativity, although the physical presence of Carl Valeri exposed him at times.

Milan Jovanovic: 6 – Had some good moments but wasn't consistent enough for a star player in a crucial game.

Milos Krasic: 8 – Probably Serbia's best player with a great performance on the wing, exposing David Carney as a weakness for Australia. Could have delivered better though.

Nikola Zigic: 5 – Missed a great chance and looked jaded and lethargic. Serbia looked better going forward without him.

Zoran Tosic: 7 – Relatively dangerous in a substitute role on the wing.

Marko Pantelic: 7 – Serbia were much better going forward with him leading the line, and scored a typical poachers goal to give his side a chance late on.

Danko Lazovic: 5 – Probably should have done more in his 13 minute cameo role.

Uruguay and Mexico advance, as French sent packing

By Andrew Fisher

France's horror world cup show has finally ended, with the 1998 champions sent packing after another dismal display this time against host nation South Africa, eventually losing 2-1.

The score line really did flatter Raymond Domenech's side, they looked like a team that couldn't wait to get home, and star striker Nicolas Anelka had already booked his flight after a very public spat with his team boss, causing a major rift between players and coach.

It took just twenty minutes for the host nation to grab a deserved opener with Bongani Khumalo heading home from a corner, things got from bad to worse for the French as just six minutes later Yoann Gourcuff was shown a straight red for a stray elbow.

For South Africa to progress they needed a minor miracle, requiring at least a five goal win and a result between Uruguay and Mexico, and for a

moment it looked like their prayers might be answered after Katlego Mphela made it 2-0 just before the break, and with the French in total disarray a blow out was on the cards.

The home side dominated the second half, and came close to extending their lead on numerous occasions, with only the cross bar and some bad luck saving the French from further embarrassment. Florent Malouda was able to score France's first goal for their campaign, but major changes will no doubt be made upon their return home.

Although they didn't qualify for the second round, the Bafana Bafana can be proud of their efforts, with one win, one draw and a loss, they certainly made the most of a very tough group, their fans on the other hand will always be remembered for the Vuvuzela's whether you love them or hate them.

Top spot was up for grabs in the other Group A fixture, as Uruguay pulled off an impressive 1-0 victory over the Mexicans thanks to a Luiz Suarez strike in the first half.

Uruguay tops the group with two wins, and a draw, and without conceding a goal. They now face the Korea Republic in the Round of 16, and with key players Deigo Forlan, Deigo Perez and Luiz Suarez in red hot form, the South American side will fancy their chances of progressing into week three of the tournament.

Mexico have arguably their strongest squad in recent history for this campaign, with the likes of Marquez, Torrado, Salcido and Vela in their ranks they were able to progress without much fuss out of a tough group. Their highlight was no doubt their convincing victory over France.

The true strength of the Mexican outfit will be revealed when they face their toughest test of their campaign, taking on Deigo Maradona's Argentina in the last sixteen on Monday morning. Lionel Messi will be the obvious threat for the Mexicans, and Captain Rafael Marquez will have the duty to stop his Barcelona team mate.

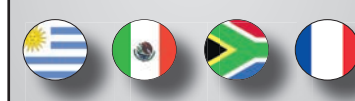
The Matches

South Africa 1:1 Mexico
Uruguay 0:0 France
South Africa 0:3 Uruguay
France 0:2 Mexico
Mexico 0:1 Uruguay
France 1:2 South Africa



The Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Mexico	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
South Africa	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
France	3	0	1	2	1	4	1



Irish eyes are smiling: French coach Raymond Domenech has been under intense scrutiny before, during and after the World Cup. Some critics have suggested that karma played its part in the French debacle of 2010 after it initially qualified for the finals at the expense of the Irish, courtesy of a blatant hand ball goal in the Play Offs

Impressive Argentina eases through

By Matt Galea

Three games, three wins represent the perfect start to Diego Maradona's World Cup campaign.

Defeating all three opponents from Group B with relative ease, Argentina has provided World Cup viewers with the best football of the tournament so far. Although their defensive strength has not been quite fully examined, Argentina's flying offense has been in full swing already, with the likes of Sergio Aguero, Gonzalo Higuain and of course the brilliant Lionel Messi in dazzling form at this South African football fiesta, the Argentineans are daring to dream. With seven goals in three games, it's hard to see why not.

This is a team with a great combination of grit and flare, and will surely be heading deep into this World Cup tournament. The only questions that remain to be answered about Argentina come from their defence.

A terrible error from Martin Demichelis against South Korea had many asking how the Argentinean defence might cope against stronger opposition, however, it seems offense really is the best defence, and with the likes of Messi, Ague-

ro, Higuain, Di Maria and Milito another superb option off the bench, Diego Maradona will be confident of outscoring anyone. To be honest, Argentina simply delivered what was expected of them, an accomplishment in itself considering the way in which other big teams have failed to cope with expectation this year, and as predicted, the fight for second place was a three way battle between Group B's other three participants. Nigeria will surely be the more disappointed between themselves and Greece after failing to play at their best, and consequently leaving the tournament in last place, with only a solitary point to their name.

After a 1-0 loss to Argentina, which was more convincing than the score line suggests, Nigeria failed to bounce back against Greece. Although they were unlucky to lose Sani Kaita to a dubious straight red card, it was Enyeama's blunder that eventually cost the African's a point, essentially ending their hopes of progressing to the next rounds. An improved performance against South Korea saw them draw 2-2, a result which ensured the Nigerian would finish at the foot of the Group B table.

The result was good enough for

the South Koreans who finished the group stage in second place, earning a round of sixteen match up with Uruguay. Simply progressing from the group stages has ensured that this will be South Korea's best World Cup campaign off home soil.

The Koreans were quite suspect in defence, conceding six times in three games, however they impressed many with their willingness going forward. Even against a vastly superior team in Argentina, the Korean outfit looked to throw everything they had at their opponents and their pace and creativity in attack was an impressive site, especially for a team from which nothing special was really expected. Captain Park Ji Sung was without doubt Korea's best player demonstrating terrific vision, pace and passing ability.

Greece can leave with their heads held high. Although they weren't at their best against South Korea in their opening fixture, they redeemed themselves against Nigeria with a 2-1 win. Although that mathematically gave them a terrific chance of progressing to the final sixteen, no one really expected them to get anything from their game against Argentina; however they put in a terrific, determined

performance. Unfortunately for Otto's lot, that was not enough, as Argentina ran away with a 2-0 win when they scored two late goals, denying them second place in Group B.

Despite Argentina wrapping up top spot with relative ease, this has been an intriguing group to follow. The battle for second place was intense, and although Argentina made it all look a bit easy, the football they played at times was nothing short of world class, and they have without doubt made the best start to the tournament of any team. Whether or not they can go all the way remains to be seen, but it is hard to deny that the signs are certainly promising.

The Matches

Argentina 1:0 Nigeria
Korea Republic 2:0 Greece
Greece 2:1 Nigeria
Argentina 4:1 Korea Rep
Nigeria 2:2 Korea Republic
Greece 0:2 Argentina



The Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Korea Rep	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Greece	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Nigeria	3	0	1	2	3	5	1



Argentina coach spreads the love to Palermo, who came on as sub and finished off the Greeks with the second goal in their 2-0 win.

USA earn top spot with late, late show

By Russ Gibbs

A stoppage-time goal by American captain Landon Donovan has handed the USA a 1-0 win over Algeria and with it top spot in Group C and a fixture in the last sixteen of the 2010 FIFA World Cup against Group D runner's-up Ghana.

Donovan's goal, sliding in the rebound after Algerian goalkeeper Raid Ouheb M'bolhi had made a smart block, settled the match and took the US into the second round. The goal ensured the USA stayed in the competition sparking wild scenes of celebrations amongst their players who, only seconds earlier, had been watching forlornly as their World Cup dreams appeared to evaporate at Loftus Versfield Stadium in Pretoria. The result was a fair one though with the Americans dominating the match and creating a stack load of opportunities that only the brilliance of Raid Ouheb M'bolhi and the profligacy of the US strike-force denied them a healthy advantage. Donovan's goal, following up Clint Dempsey's saved shot after superb approach work from the speedy Jozy Altidore, was the LA Galaxy man's second of the Finals and a priceless moment for football in the States. The USA thus topped Group C having earlier drawn with both England (1-1) and Slovenia (2-2) and face a Ghanaian team that was perhaps for-

tunate to qualify from their section having only found the net twice in three matches with both goals coming from penalties from Asamoah Gyan. England meanwhile answered the expectations of a nation by doing what was required and winning their match with Slovenia to set up a mouth-watering blockbuster of a second round tie with old foes and arch-nemesis Germany. Fabio Capello's team needed to better the USA in order to win the group and receive, what on paper at least, looks to be the kinder path towards the semi-finals. A goal from Jermain Defoe in the first half, the Tottenham Hotspur striker expertly guiding a firm James Milner cross past the outstanding Samir Handanovic, was enough to secure the three points and England were group leaders until the USA bagged their late, late winner. There were plenty of positives from the England viewpoint though with central defenders John Terry and Matthew Upson combining well to deny Slovenia any real scoring chances and putting their bodies on the line with a series of blocks to thwart marauding Slovenian attacks. At the other end the Three Lions had plenty of chances to extend their lead but were repelled by the excellence of Handanovic. The Udinese goalkeeper beat away a Defoe drive and dived to block a Steven Gerrard curler in the first half to

keep his team in the World Cup. After the interval, Defoe stabbed wide on the turn when well-placed in front of goal, Wayne Rooney, who seemed much sharper than in his previous two outings, struck the post with a shot on the turn which Handanovic somehow got a hand on, John Terry saw a firm header beaten away and Defoe had a goal disallowed for off-side after excellent work by Rooney as England turned the screw. News of the USA's great escape was a heart-breaker for Slovenia whose four points counted for little in the final reckoning seeing them finish third on the group table and miss out on qualification by the slenderest of margins. It's been a good tournament for the small Eastern-European nation though who enjoyed a first-ever World Cup victory when defeating Algeria 1-0 in their first appearance in South Africa before their creditable 2-2 draw with the USA. And so England will face Germany for the right to meet either Argentina or Mexico in the Quarter Finals whilst the USA and Ghana match up in order to see who will play the winner of South Korea and Uruguay. The false dawns are over and the speculation can end. The knock-out stages provide countries with one chance of glory. Whether England or the USA has the necessary mettle to make it to the latter stages will shortly be known.

The Matches	
England 1:1 USA	
Algeria 0:1 Slovenia	
Slovenia 2:2 USA	
England 0:0 Algeria	
Slovenia 0-1 England	
USA 1-0 Algeria	

The Standings	
	P W D L F A Pts
USA	3 1 2 0 4 3 5
England	3 1 2 0 2 1 5
Slovenia	3 1 1 1 3 3 4
Algeria	3 0 1 2 0 2 1



USA's Landon Donovan scores a heart-stopping winner against Algeria.



England scrape through and now face the might of Germany.

Germans, Ghana progress

By Alex Milic

Serbia v Australia 1:2

Cahill 69' Holman 73' - Pantelic 84'
With a place in the Second Round to play for both sides went into this match hoping for a win and three valuable points. Australia went on to win 2:1 knocking out Serbia who needed a win or a 2:2 draw, the result wasn't good enough for both sides and the South African adventure came to an end. Serbia attacked from the get go and should have scored on two occasions but poor finishing and Mark Schwarzer's brilliant goalkeeping denied the White Eagles. The first chance went to Milos Krasic who was clear on goal following a great through ball from Milos Ninkovic but Krasic failed to keep his composure and was pushed wide by Schwarzer's divewhich cut the angle on goal and the chance went missing. Chelsea fullback Branislav Ivavnovic should have put the Serbs one up going into the break but his point blank shot was superbly stopped by the excellent Schwarzer. Serbia dominated the first half and the missed opportunities would go on to haunt them. Radomir Antic went into the second half with a cautious approach which gave Australia more possession of the ball and a chance to go forward and cause some havoc. Brett Holman was brought on for more attacking options for the green and gold and it payed off. First Everton forward Tim Cahill got the better of Nemanja Vidic and headed home to open the scoring and only four minutes later Brett Holman scored

a cracker from 25 yards, his excellent shot was unstoppable and Australia were up by two. Marko Pantelic was brought on by the unambitious Antic and he provided the best chance for Serbia in the second half. He scored following Schwarzers fumble and could have levelled proceedings with seconds remaining when he was five yards from goal but failed to find the target. It was a bitter sweet feeling for Australia while for Serbia it was the same old story. Germany v Ghana 1:0 Mesut Ozil 60'
A fantastic Mesut Ozil strike in the second half was good enough for a German victory and top spot in Group D. The youngster proved to be too much for the Ghanaian player which failed to contain him thus giving him room to manoeuvre. Both sides went into the game with a lot to prove and this was evident as Germany were hoping to bounce back following the defeat to Serbia while Ghana just needed a draw but the Black Stars were playing for the win. Ghana goalkeeper Richard Kingson had a lot to do early on, first saving a Cacau shot, then had no trouble gathering a Thomas Muller cross. Lukas Podolski was eager to find his scoring touch and had a dangerous shot deflected wide for a corner, Podolski then went for one of his trademark runs down the left and his cross met the leg of Jonathan Mensah who almost put the ball past his own keeper.

After half an hour of play Mesut Ozil had the best chance to put the Germans one up, he was clean on goal having beaten the offside trap but was denied by the excellent Kingson who spread himself and blocked Ozil's shot with his legs. Kingosn come to the rescue once more minutes later, saving Cacau's powerful drive from ten yards out. Germany went into the second half feeling the pressure and the first real chance went to Mesut Ozil who found space on the edge of the 6 yard box and blasted Germany into the lead, a valuable goal which proved to be the winning goal. Ghana had chances to find an equaliser but the West Africans could not get the better of Manuel Neuer in the German goal and the well organised German defence. Review All four teams were in the running for a spot in the Round of 16 after two games and going into the last matches the pressure was on the favourites to progress Germany and Serbia. Ghana was a surprise package in the group while Australia picked up following a 4:0 loss in the opening game to win four points and only failed to advance due to a poor goal difference. Serbia beat the favored Germans but lost to Ghana and Australia and failed to live up to their expectations.

German players mob Mesut Ozil after scoring the winner against Ghana.

The Matches	
Germany 4:0 Australia	
Serbia 0:1 Ghana	
Germany 0:1 Serbia	
Ghana 1:1 Australia	
Ghana 0:1 Germany	
Australia 2:1 Serbia	

Final Standings	
	P W D L F A Pts
Germany	3 2 0 1 5 1 6
Ghana	3 1 1 1 2 2 4
Australia	3 1 1 1 3 6 4
Serbia	3 1 0 2 2 3 3



Australia and Serbia lament what could have been despite exerting all their energies in a cracking final group game.



Dutch march on, Cameroon out

By Leroy Robinson

Cameroon 1 Netherlands 2

In this final group game – played at Green Point Stadium in Cape Town – between a Netherlands team already qualified and a Cameroon team going home, the game was surprisingly competitive and entertaining. That the Dutch maintained their 100% record is a side issue. The good news is they picked up no injuries or suspensions. The best news of all was that Arjen Robben came on 17 minutes of football unscathed and looked the same player who had a superb season for Bayern Munich.

The Indomitable Lions put up a great fight. Just as in the game against Denmark, Cameroon started out brightly – Aurelien Chedjou twisting into space 25 yards from goal and forcing a solid save from Maarten Stekelenburg after just three minutes. Then, as the first half wore on, they faded. In what was to be Paul Le Guen’s last match in charge of Cameroon the Dutch took the lead on 36 minutes when Robin van Persie slid a shot between the goalkeepers’ legs at a tight angle from a through ball by Van der Vaart.

Cameroon equalized when Eto’o scored from the penalty spot after Van der Vaart handballed after 65 minutes. After that the game threatened to become stale but Dutch coach Burt Van Marwijk brought on Robben after 73 minutes. Robben has that rare ability, hitherto unseen at most of the World Cup games, of dribbling directly for goal. He can also shoot from anywhere or thread a through ball to teammates. More importantly for the Dutch, he

draws a crowd, allowing others to find space. He’d already livened up the game with a few mazy runs when on 83 minutes he cut in from the right and curled a left-foot shot passed the goalkeeper and onto the post. Another substitute, Klaus Jan Huntelaar, was on hand to side foot home the rebound from a tight angle.

The win left the Dutch with a 100% record and a quarterfinal on Monday at Durban Stadium against Slovakia to look forward to. For Cameroon, so much was expected of Eto’o and so little delivered, and maybe that’s their problem. As for Eto’o, he could follow Le Guen and leave the international arena for good.

Denmark 1 Japan 3

There’s something rotten in the state of Denmark and its called Thomas Sorensen. In a game Denmark had to win in order to progress the ‘keeper had a night to forget at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg. Beaten by long range free kicks from Honda and Endo, the Japanese raced to a 2-0 lead inside half an hour, effectively ending the match. It was the first time Denmark had not qualified for the round of 16.

Coach Takeshi Okada named an unchanged side for the third game in a row. Danish coach Morten Olsen brought in Thomas Kahlenberg and Per Kroldrup for Jesper Gronkjaer (dropped) and Simon Kjaer (suspended). It was Japan, needing only a draw, which got off to the better start with Daisuke Matsui testing Sorensen from a cross by Yoshito Okubo. The goalie undid his good work by failing to stop Keisuke Honda’s shot thirty yards from goal. The free kick

may have been in the left hand corner of his goal but Sorensen saw it all the way and was unable to stop it, despite getting a touch with both gloves. On 30 minutes Yasuhito Endo curled a right-foot free kick passed Sorensen to make it 2-0. Though it curled into the top corner the Stoke City goalkeeper, had he positioned his wall correctly, would have seen the shot harmlessly bounce into it and not curl around it.

Olsen made substitutions, replacing Martin Jorgensen with Jakob Poulsen, to no avail. That was until the 81st minute when they were awarded a gift by South African referee Jerome Damon. He judged that Hasebe pushed Daniel Agger from behind. Though there was contact in the box, Agger threw himself forward as though diving for cover from a gunman, and was rewarded for his embellishment. Jon Dahl Tommason hit the spot kick too near the goalkeeper’s right and it was palmed back into his path. Tommason pounced on the rebounded to poke the ball home and become Denmark’s joint highest scorer with 52 goals – tied with Poul Nielsen.

There was still enough time for Japan to get a third, Honda tip-toeing through the defense and, with just the keeper to beat, squaring to Shinji Okazaki to slot into an empty net. The night belonged to Japan, who makes the last 16 of the World Cup for the 2nd time, the first time outside their own country. They move on to face Paraguay on Tuesday at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium Pretoria while Denmark have rebuilding to do.

The Matches

Netherlands 2:0 Denmark
Japan 1:0 Cameroon
Netherlands 1:0 Japan
Cameroon 1:2 Denmark
Denmark 1:3 Japan
Cameroon 1:2 Netherlands



Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Japan	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Denmark	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Cameroon	3	0	0	3	2	5	0



Wax On, Wax Off: The Blue Samurai join the Netherlnads in the Round of 16 after accounting for the not so great Danes 3-1 in their final group game.

Slovakia oust Italy in shock cup exit

By Adam North

Well who would have thought it; defending champions Italy are out of the World Cup in the group stage. I certainly didn’t, as I predicted that Italy would cruise through their group winning all three games. However, they failed to win a single game, even against New Zealand, and it is Paraguay who advance as group winners, with Slovakia going though as runners up, leaving Italy bottom of the group with just the two draws.

Paraguay

The South Americans advance after draws against New Zealand and Italy, and a victory over Slovakia. Before the tournament started it seemed that the Paraguayans were favourites to advance in second place, alongside the Italians, yet they ended up topping the group as teams around them failed to show any of their quality.

Rather than their attacking talent, which is somewhat notable, it was the strong defence of the South Americans which was the key to their advancement. I can easily see their next match going to penalties as they have a very strong defence, yet struggle to score themselves, which is the classic case for a penalty shoot out.

Overall they proved to be the class of the group even if they did not play particularly well in any of their games.

Slovakia

Slovakia advance after an exciting game against the Italians which turned into a winner takes all clash. Slovakia looked

much brighter than they had done previously in the tournament, and deserved to go ahead. After going two up the Italians went all out attack, and there was so much space for both teams that more goals seemed inevitable. Italy got their goal, then the Slovaks got another to re-establish their two goal advantage. Italy did grab a late second, after a delightful chip from Quagliarella, but failed to get an equalising goal meaning the defence of their title ceased in the group stages.

If Slovakia are judged on their first two performances, then they’re not a very good side, yet their last performance against the Italians was full of skill, touch, pace and passion, and they deserved to go through ahead of the defending champions as they showed a lot more spirit and will to win. Like Paraguay, I don’t think they will get much further, but just getting out of a group which included Italy is an achievement.

New Zealand

In many ways New Zealand should be the proudest team to be leaving the tournament. Before a ball was kicked I suggested that they’d be lucky to score a goal let alone get any points, and yet they managed three draws, scoring two goals, which included a one all draw against Italy, in which they actually took the lead.

The Kiwis were never really a threat to win any of the games they were in, yet they did only narrowly miss out on advancing to the knockout stages. If you leave a World Cup without losing you can hold your head high, and hopefully they will see this as a sign that football in their country is getting better.

Italy

Everyone suggested that it would be difficult for the Azzurri to win another World Cup, yet nobody would have thought that they’d be leaving so soon. All the problems that I thought might be there were so, as they lacked creativity up front, and in the most part looked past their prime.

Had Pirlo, the key player for the Italians, played in every game I think they would have advanced, yet injury kept him out of all but the last half hour of their last game, which ultimately was not enough. I’m sure the Italian press is not happy with their side, and rightly so as not only did they not play well, they also whinged and complained about everything which went against them. At times they were a little unlucky, but ultimately if you cannot beat New Zealand, with all due respect to the hardworking side that they are, then you shouldn’t be calling yourselves World Champions, which in the coming weeks they won’t be doing anymore.

Ultimately Group F was one of the weakest groups in this year’s World Cup, with most games being decided on who has the better defence, and who can nick the odd goal although that being said the Italy v Slovakia game will go down as one of the best games of the whole tournament, as in had intrigue, passion, emotion, desire, and some great football from both sides. The winner of this year’s World Cup will not be coming from this group, but credit does go to the two teams that advanced, and to New Zealand who leave undefeated. As for the Italians, who knows where they go from here.

The Matches

Italy 1:1 Paraguay
New Zealand 1:1 Slovakia
Slovakia 0:2 Paraguay
Italy 1:1 New Zealand
Slovakia 3:2 Italy
Paraguay 0:0 New Zealand



The Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paraguay	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Slovakia	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
New Zealand	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Italy	3	0	2	1	4	5	2



Slovakia pull off a memorable 3-2 win over Italy to secure passage to the Round of 16 and simultaneously send the reigning champs crashing out of the cup winless.

Last rites issued in ‘Group of Death’

By Mike Salter

The so-called “Group of Death” ended up being the only group at this World Cup to run according to the established script. The mighty Brazil and the talented Portuguese went through, with the Ivory Coast’s task always looking an impossible one after the key result in the section - Portugal’s 7-0 thrashing of a flaccid North Korea.

Brazil 3-1 Ivory Coast

The big story of this game might have been the harsh dismissal of Kaka, but essentially it was a tale of a settled team versus an unbalanced one. Sven-Goran Eriksson strangely left out his star against Portugal, the incisive Gervinho, and the Ivorians were left with no real creativity out of midfield. Brazil managed to take a stranglehold on the game, and Luis Fabiano showed the predatory instincts that had served Brazil so well at last year’s Confederations Cup - a lovely narrow-angled strike after some slick build-up work in midfield, followed by a delicate piece on control on the edge of the box (with a little help from his forearm) and another powerful finish. Elano made it three with a neat outside-of-the-foot finish after Kaka’s elegant run down the left, and the match was well and truly out of reach of the Ivorians. They did, however, score a memorable consolation goal when Gervinho, making a significant

impact as substitute, ran the length of the field to help set up Didier Drogba for a simple headed goal.

Portugal 7-0 North Korea

The key game. Following Portugal’s draw against the Ivory Coast in their opener, they knew that goal difference was going to be crucial, and this game turned out better than they could ever have hoped for. It didn’t look like it at the beginning, though; North Korea’s magnificent effort against the Brazilians clearly had the Portuguese somewhat rattled, and Carlos Queiroz’s men played the first half-hour as if committing more than four men to attack at any one time would result in a North Korean-style execution for the entire team. Ultimately it was the dependable Porto midfielder Raul Meireles who sparked the Portuguese into life, sneaking through from midfield to score the first before providing a superb diagonal pass for Simao to knock home the second. Hugo Almeida, possibly offside, scored the third from a header, and then Portuguese shoulders loosened and the team began to play some delightful football. Tiago converted a neat pass from Cristiano Ronaldo for the fourth, Liedson thumped home the fifth in the midst of nonexistent marking, a defensive howler allowed Cristiano Ronaldo to score a cheeky goal after juggling the ball on the back of his neck, and a glancing header from Tiago completed the rout. The North Koreans, so competitive against Bra-

zil, crumbled psychologically in the second half...to the dismay of the Ivory Coast.

Brazil 0-0 Portugal

A perfunctory game which did little to please the spectators. Nilmar, in the team for the suspended Kaka, almost scored in the first half with a close-range shot that was well-saved by Eduardo, and the Portuguese keeper needed a good save to stop a deflected shot from Ramires near the close as well, but it was a disappointing affair in which neither side seemed to have any real ambition to win.

Ivory Coast 3-0 North Korea

Two early goals for the Ivorians, Yaya Toure expertly converting Arthur Boka’s cut-back and Romaric finishing up after a crisp touch and shot from Drogba in the six-yard area, might have given the African side hope of reeling in their massive lag in goal difference. But they eased off, failed to put enough pressure on the North Korean goal, and the last remaining hopes of a place in the last 16 withered away. Salomon Kalou did score another late on, with a deft volley, but it was far too late to change anything.

Brazil and Portugal through to the Round of 16 then, with Brazil facing a talented but somewhat ill-disciplined Chile team and Portugal facing the overwhelming favourites Spain. Two good contests in store.

The Matches

Côte d’Ivoire 0:0 Portugal
Brazil 2:1 Korea DPR
Brazil 3:1 Côte d’Ivoire
Portugal 7:0 Korea DPR
Portugal 0:0 Brazil
Korea DPR 0:3 Côte d’Ivoire



The Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Portugal	3	1	2	0	7	0	5
Côte d’Ivoire	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Korea DPR	3	0	0	3	1	12	0



Portugal’s striker Cristiano Ronaldo eyes the ball during a match on June 25. Despite having scored only once and produced some peripheral performances in the World Cup group phase, Ronaldo managed to be named man of the match three times by public vote.

Spain come good after sloppy start

By Russ Gibbs

Reigning European Champions, and many people’s favourites for FIFA World Cup Glory, Spain has qualified from Group H as top seed after defeating Chile 2-1 at Loftus Versfield Stadium in Pretoria. First half goals from striker David Villa and midfielder Andres Iniesta was enough for the Span- ish to secure the three points to take them top of the standings and set up what promises to be a cracking match with local rivals Portugal in the Round of Sixteen.

Spain looked in good shape in the first-half of a match that they needed to win to ensure their qualification for the second round taking the game to their South American opponents with a brace of goals before the interval. Barcelona-bound Villa struck first, curling into an empty net from 35 metres after Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo raced off his line to deny Fernando Torres who was racing down the flank. His clearance fell to Villa who smartly struck from distance to give Spain the lead.

The advantage was doubled in the 37th minute with a terrific team goal. The Spaniards finally clicked into gear stroking the ball around and creating a half-chance for Iniesta who coolly picked a corner to slide a precise shot past Bravo for 2-0. It was decisive blow in the match as Chile found themselves reduced to ten men as the goal celebrations died down when defender Marco Estrada was sent off, for a second yellow card, after appearing to acciden-

tally clip Torres heels in the build-up to the move – yet another harsh refereeing decision at this tournament.

Chile substitute Rodrigo Millar reduced the deficit two minutes after the re-start with a deflected shot that gave Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas no chance but there was little doubt that the Europeans would hold on against ten men and claim the number one spot in Group H.

Chile qualified for the second phase, and a match with Brazil, after Switzerland was unable to defeat Honduras in their encounter, the score finishing 0-0 after a frustrating ninety minutes for the Swiss. Knowing that a win would probably see them through the Swiss put in a poor performance and were unable to break down a resolute Honduran defence with the Central Americans wasting numerous chances themselves to win the match at the death breaking quickly, as Switzerland pressed for a winner, only to let their support down with some woeful finishing.

Earlier in the tournament Spain had recovered from their shock opening group loss to Switzerland with a 2-0 win over Honduras thanks to a brace of goals from David Villa. Spain looked almost back to their best creating a proliferation of chances from which Villa was the main beneficiary. The hot-shot striker, who know holds the record for most goals in World Cup Finals for Spain, should have had a hat-trick to his name but tamely rolled wide a penalty in the second half which would have added extra sheen to a comprehensive Spanish victory.

A solitary goal from Mark Gonzalez meanwhile gave Chile a 1-0 win over Switzerland in a poor quality match at Port Elizabeth where the surface gave plenty of cause for concern appearing to rip up underneath the feet of the players as they passed the ball around. In a dour match the only goal arrived in the 75th minute when Gonzalez rose to head home Esteban Paredes cross for what proved to be the winning goal in a fractured clash.

Spain’s second round match with Portugal looks like one of the picks of the round with the close neighbours going head-to-head in Cape Town with the winners progressing to a Quarter Final showdown with either Paraguay or Japan at Ellis Park, Johannesburg. Chile’s task is just as unenviable as Brazil provided their blockade in Johannesburg with the winners of what is sure to be a superb match facing Netherlands or surprise qualifiers Slovakia in the last eight.

It’s been a truncated tournament for Spain to date with Vicente Del Bosque’s team slowly, and for their fellow World Cup aspirants, ominously coming into form at just the right time. Question marks still surround the fitness and form of Liverpool hit-man Fernando Torres, dragged from the field in the 2-1 win over Chile after a fairly innocuous display, but their remains the memory of his Euro 2008 winner, after he had again suffered a poor group stage, to offer comfort to Spanish fans.

The Matches

Honduras 0:1 Chile
Spain 0:1 Switzerland
Chile 1:0 Switzerland
Spain 2:0 Honduras
Chile 1:2 Spain
Switzerland 0:0 Honduras



The Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Chile	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	1	4	4
Honduras	3	0	1	2	0	3	1



Spain resumes normal programming and finishes top of the group despite falling to the Swiss in their opening group game.

World Cup Round of 16 Draw

USA v Ghana 1-2
Uruguay v South Korea 2-1
Germany v England
(playing overnight)
Argentina v Mexico
(playing overnight)
Netherlands v Slovakia

(playing Monday)
Brazil v Chile
(Playing Monday)
Paraguay v Japan
(Playing Tuesday)
Spain v Portugal
(Playing Tuesday)

Uruguay and Ghana to Quarters

The group stages of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa has seen a vast array of outstanding results, upsets, surprise premature exits and many World Cup firsts, all of which will be engraved in World Cup and footballing history.

First and foremost, the 2010 World Cup has seen the exit of host nation, South Africa, the first ever host nation to drop out of the finals in the group stages. The African nation has only qualified for the finals three times (1998, 2002 and 2010), and were therefore not expected to achieve qualification for the Round of 16.

However, Bafana Bafana put up a spirited fight as the first ever African host nation, scoring the first goal of the finals through Siphwe Tshabalala in their 1-1 draw with Mexico. However, their 3-0 loss to Uruguay made it all too difficult for Alberto Parreira's men to qualify for the next round, despite an incredible first time upset over 2006 runners-up, France 2-1.

Adding to the surprises in Group A, France's overall performance was lackluster at best, claiming two losses and a draw, which contributed to another World Cup first.

The premature exit of the French finalists of 2006 was not unpredictable, as they also did it in 2002, but what was remarkable was the exit of 2006 winners Italy, with both 2006 finalists finishing bottom of their respective groups. Both France's Domenech and Italian Coach Marcello Lippi end their international coaching careers on a low, neither being able to capitalise on their 2006 performances.

However, the incredible feats of the first round did not stop there. Portugal's amazing 7-0 thumping of Korea DPR so far looks to be the biggest win of the finals, judging by the quality of teams in the Round of 16. The incredible win overshadowed Argentina's 6-0 win over Serbia and Montenegro in the 2006 finals and just fell short of Germany's 8-0 drumming of Saudi Arabia of the 2002 finals.

Still, the surprises kept on coming as Alexander Frei-absent Switzerland defeated overriding favourites Spain in their opening match 1-0. Coming into the game, there had been 18 games played between the two teams in the World Cup finals, of which Spain had won 15 and the three remaining ended in draws.

The win for the Swiss had at least given them their first win against the Euro 2008 Champions and it also resulted in Spain's second ever loss under Vicente del Bosque, the other being 2-0 to USA in their 2009 Confederations Cup semi-final.

In terms of solo player achievements of the group stages, the first hat-trick of the tournament went to Gonzalo Higuain in Argentina's 4-1 victory over South Korea. He sits atop the leading goal scorers on three alongside heavy contenders Spaniard David Villa and Uruguayan Luis Suarez, also on three a piece.

Also to be considered are defensive and goalkeeper performances, which are often neglected. Portugal's defense and keeper Eduardo conceded no goals in their group games as they go into the next round with a goal difference of seven. Likewise, the Uruguayan defense and keeper Fernando Muslera progress with no goals conceded and a goal difference of four.

Speaking of David Villa, the Spanish and newly signed Barcelona striker has scored what is the longest strike of the World Cup



Uruguay's Luis Suarez taps in his first goal in the 2-1 win against South Korea, and are on the way to booking a quarter-final spot.



Kwadwo Asamoah sinks to his knees at the final whistle as Ghana create history and secure their first place in the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

thus far, chipping the Chilean goalkeeper -who was on the 18 yard line trying to stop a shot - from 32 yards out into an open net. The goal is also under contention with Diego Forlan's top corner and bullet of a strike from 18 yards in Uruguay's 3-0 win over South Africa, as well as Brazilian Elano's great strike from 18 yards in Brazil's 2-1win over Korea DPR.

The group stages of the World Cup came to an end on Saturday morning Australian time, resulting in 16 teams progressing and

the other half making their trip back to the airport and off home. The next round will see more skill, precision and passion as the remaining 16 teams battle it out for the prized World Cup trophy.

Spain, Brazil and Argentina look to be the clear favourites, with the Netherlands and Germany seen as the dark horses and England looking to end their drought since their 1966 title and even Portugal looking to win their first ever World Cup, likewise to the Spaniards.

Uruguayans took control of the game early, gaining most of the possession in the opening five minutes, but Korea had a chance from a free kick which was curled around the wall by Park Chu-Yong and hit the up-right, leaving Fernando Muslera stranded between the posts.

This was the only real chance Korea had, which proved to be costly as Diego Forlan was left unmarked at the edge of the 18-yard box in the eighth minute and managed to get around two Korean defenders to cut a ball across the six-yard box. The ball strode past four defenders who did nothing but play an ineffective offside trap, as well as the Korean goalkeeper Jung Sungryong who unsuccessfully attempted to dive for the ball. The cross made it to an unmarked Luis Suarez who put the ball into the open net to record his second goal of the finals, thanks to some unfocussed defending and poor marking efforts.

As the game progressed, Uruguay seemed to take more and more control, but as the rain arrived skill errors were made by both sides, resulting in some great chances on goal that were cancelled out once again by skill errors.

In the second half it was much the same, in the opening ten, but the Koreans slowly began to adapt to the wet pitch and made the most of their opposition's errors. Their efforts were rewarded in the 68th minute when Lee Chung-yong was left unmarked in the six-yard box and headed a poorly-cleared free kick into the goal.

The killing blow came for Uruguay within ten minutes to play as Luis Suarez skipped around two Korean defenders and curled the ball into the top right with some help from the post, leaving Jung Sungryong powerless to stop it.

Suarez's third goal of the tournament booked Uruguay a place in the Quarter Finals for the first time since 1970.

USA vs Ghana:
In the second match of the Round of 16 stage, USA met a Ghana side that was left alone to represent Africa in the finals, and the Ghanaians did their continent proud, upsetting the 14th ranked side 2-1 after extra-time.

Kevin-Prince Boateng opened the scoring five minutes into the match thanks to a gifted ball by Kwadwo Asamoah just inside the US half. The Portsmouth striker managed to make it towards goal unchallenged and put the ball low and crisply past Tim Howard's right. It was Ghana's first goal from play in this World Cup, their two others coming from two penalties in the group stages.

The game was far from over, however, when on the hour mark Jonathan Mensah foolishly brought down Clint Dempsey inside the penalty area. Landon Donovan stepped up and stroked the ball into the bottom right with some help from the post, scoring for the third consecutive game and drawing the USA level.

After 90 minutes the two sides could not be separated as the match went into extra-time. It took only three minutes for Asamoah Gyan to score what would be the match inner. He fought off Carlos Bocanegra before steadying and struck a powerful shot over the top of Tim Howard with only his left foot.

The win puts Ghana into the Quarter Finals where they will play an in-form Uruguay on Saturday morning at 4:30 EST.



1300 793 505





Spain 1982

With Roy Hay

New Zealand's other World Cup

New Zealand has proved to be the surprise team of the 2010 World Cup but this is not their first appearance on the world stage or the first surprise they have dished out.

In 1981 in the lead up to the tournament in Spain it was Australia which was surprised as John Adshead's All Whites drew three-all with the Socceroos in Auckland and then beat them two-nil at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 16 May 1981, 'A first-half strike from Steve Wooddin and a thunderous long-range header from combative midfielder Grant Turner sealed a comprehensive win, and convinced many New Zealand soccer fans that they finally had a team capable of competing on the world stage.' The second goal is even more lovingly and extensively described in Charlie Dempsey's biography by Peter Devlin. That book, curiously enough, covers the lead up to the tournament in Spain and the aftermath when the coach resigned, but has no description of the games in the final tournament.

The Kiwis then went on to win the Asia Zone A qualifying group at the Socceroos' expense. The three Oceania teams, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji were included in the Asian zone matches.

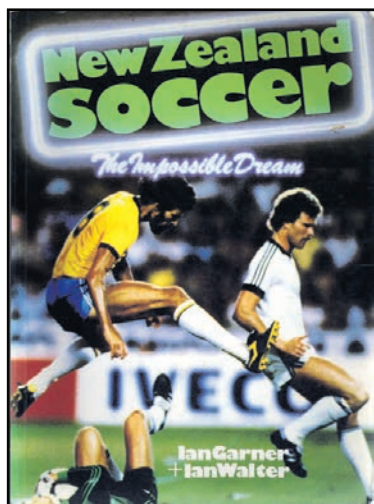
Next the Kiwis had to face a second qualifying group involving Kuwait, China and Saudi Arabia. The Kuwaitis won that with New Zealand and China equal on points and goal difference, but the fact that the All Whites had scored more goals and had better goal average did not count. Instead the teams met in a sudden death play-off with the Kiwis winning two-one in Singapore. Steve Wooddin got the opener and Wynton Rufer scored the goal which took the team to Spain. No one could say the All Whites had not earned their spot as they played 15 matches in the qualifying process.

The final tournament had an unwieldy 24 teams in six groups of four, which necessitated a second round of four groups of three to determine the semi-finalists.

In the All Whites' first game of the finals against Scotland in Malaga, Ricky Herbert came on as a 65th minute substitute to replace Bobby Almond and held his spot in the remaining two games. Now he is coaching the All Whites and Wellington Phoenix. Scotland went off to a three-nil lead through Kenny Dalglish and two goals by John Wark before the New Zealanders surprised the Scots with goals by skipper Steve Sumner and Steve Wooddin. John Robertson and substitute Steve Archibald made the score more respectable



Frank van Hattum goes down to pick up the ball as Socrates (centre) closes in watched by Ricki Herbert and Steve Sumner in the All Whites versus Brazil match in Spain in 1982. Photo: Les Shorrock collection. Deakin University Library.



Cover of Ian Garner and Ian Walter's story of New Zealand football. Source: All Whites website.



World Cup '82 logo and mascot (Naranjito).



All Whites squad prior to qualifying for the 1982 World Cup
Back row (left to right): Adrian Elrick, Duncan Cole, Mark Armstrong, Grant Turner, Allan Boath, Dave Bright, Clive Campbell
Middle row: Kevin Fallon (assistant coach), Ricki Herbert, Brian Turner, Barry Pickering, Richard Wilson, Frank van Hattum, Glen Adam, Sam Malcolmson, John Adshead (coach)
Front row: Steve Wooddin, Keith Mackay, Steve Sumner (captain), Charlie Dempsey (New Zealand World Cup director), Bobby Almond, John Hill, Glenn Dods
Source: All Whites website.



Wynton Rufer and friends. Photo: Les Shorrock collection. Deakin University Library.

from a Scottish perspective. Those New Zealand goals would prove costly for Scotland which went out after a loss to Brazil and a draw with the Soviet Union.

Next up for the All Whites was the Soviet Union which had a tasty side including Rinat Dasaev in goal, Sergey Baltacha and former European player of the year Oleg Blokhin. This match was played in Malaga on 16 June. A three-nil defeat was the result with goals by Yuri Gavrilov, Baltacha and Blokhin.

The final game was in Seville against the mighty Brazilians for whom Zico scored twice, one with a spectacular overhead kick which you can see on Utube. Falcao and Serginho contributed one each. So the dream run came to an end, but it had been an iconic moment in the history of the game across the Tasman.

The New Zealand squad included Frank van Hattum in goal, John Hill, Sam Malcolmson, Duncan Cole, Adrian Elrick, Bobby Almond, Ricky Herbert, Steve Sumner, Keith Mackay, Kenny Cresswell, Allan Boath, Wynton Rufer, Steve Wooddin, Glenn Dods, Brian Turner, Billy McClure, Peter Simonsen, Dave Bright, Barry Pickering, and Richard Wilson.

Wynton Rufer was a genuine superstar, though he was only 19 when he played in Spain in 1982. He signed for Norwich City, but could not get a work permit in the United Kingdom. Later he had six years in Germany with Werder Bremen, winning several domestic trophies and the UEFA Cup Winners Cup. Others played in the United Kingdom and Australia at various levels. Ricki Herbert had a spell with Wolves.

John Adshead was the coach, assisted by Kevin Fallon. They were chalk and cheese but the combination worked, though Adshead resigned immediately after the tournament.

The interest generated by the All Whites back home was unprecedented and people began to discuss the potential for a challenge to the supremacy of the All Blacks and rugby union in New Zealand's sporting culture. The Europeans treated the All Whites condescendingly or ignored them altogether. Brian Glanville described the players as clumsy. Rothmans Football Yearbook for 1982-83 does not mention any of their games in its account of the finals.

In 2010 Argentina is the team with the most skill and the worst haircuts. In 1982, 13 out of 20 players in the New Zealand squad had beards and or moustaches.

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KRNCVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

The World Cup has come and gone for Australia. One can't help to think that it was the one that got away. A campaign that stuttered before it even got going and we only have ourselves to blame. Two years of qualification, preparation and tinkering blew up in forty minutes in our faces in the first match against Germany, and unfortunately we were just never able to recover.

Much has been said about Pim Verbeek's choice of tactics and team selection for the first match, which ultimately was a gamble with high stakes that forced us to pay a high price. The signs were ominous during the final warm up games when we faced Denmark and the USA.

I find it inconceivable that any coach would still be toying with the idea of a selection process so late in the piece. Granted, Verbeek had a number of crucial players still battling to overcome injury issues, but the fact of the matter is that I don't believe the warm-up games were utilised for the opportunity they presented by the man in charge. At that particular stage and after an

extended period of being in camp, not to mention having untold opportunities to have a look at players, those hit outs should almost be used as a dress rehearsal of how you will approach your opening games, and not leaving it for the first game of an actual World Cup to experiment with a starting eleven.

It may be easier to reflect in hindsight, but anyone in their right mind would not leave it so late in the day to try and compose a line-up.

Having said that though, well done to our Socceroos for responding the way they did in the remaining two group games. Alas, as we all know the story now, it was too much too late, and a golden opportunity has slipped through our fingers.

Ultimately, we must be proud of our boys the way they played in the final two games, showing the world that we can compete with the best and deserved our place at this year's World Cup.

It was unfortunate that the football gods refused to smile on us on this particular occasion, forcing the team to play for two games with the handicap of being a man down.

Never the less, hopefully we have learned our lessons and will be stronger for it and better prepared the next time around.

Needless to say there will be a change of guard, both on the field and off it, as the nucleus of the team will be joining Verbeek in pastures anew. The likes of Craig Moore, Marco Bresciano, Vine Grella, Scott Chipperfield and perhaps even Mark Schwarzer, Brett Emerton and even Harry Kewell will no longer be a part of the equation the next time Australia embarks for Brazil 2014.

There is no denying these players have served their country well. They have been at the forefront of the football revolution that has taken place in this country over the last few years, making them household names and inspiring youngsters from around the country to aspire to be like them.

Hopefully as time progresses they are not lost from the game, and the administration that exists today recognises the fact that these people need to remain involved for the good of the game.

We've seen it happen before, whereby legends of the past are not appro-

F stood for Fail. The defending champions failed to progress, finishing bottom of the group. Unbeaten New Zealand also missed out on the next stage, three draws leaving them a point short.

Ivory Coast couldn't get out of Group G. Korea DPR, the northern Korea, also depart. In a country where their media only posts the nation in the most positive of lights, there was a shock when the clash with Portugal was shown live on television, as coverage of the tournament was only expected to have taken place should they have won the whole competition. During the heavy 0-7 defeat you wonder if the Supreme Leader Kim Jong-il pulled the plug mid-game a la Kerry Packer at Channel Nine when he saw Doug Mulray's Australia's Naughtiest Home Videos show featuring clips of animals having intercourse.

Lastly, in Group D it was the Swiss going home early to check on their watches. And the Hondurans are probably already back in Central America.

To other World Cup matters. Craig Johnston continues to grab his fellow panellists like he's marking them at a corner. Craig Foster, who would love to be the Supreme Leader of Australian football,

continues to denigrate Pim Verbeek, seemingly forgetting he was all for the Dutch revolution not so long ago.

Finally, can you believe that at World Cup venues you can purchase beverages in plastic bottles? Even in the VPL this has been stopped. Someone needs to hang their heads in shame, and it's not just the idiot Aussie fans who threw them onto the pitch when Harry Kewell was sent off against Ghana.



For your eyes only! Coverage of North Korea's exploits in the 0-7 drubbing against Portugal, as seen by the Koreans.

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

another crop as good as the last to come through and take the mantle, but I disagree. We don't know who is out there yet or who has been touched by this particular World Cup. While we didn't win the cup, Australia's performances have shown that it can play football, and even in the face of red cards, injuries and adversity, those performances could quite possibly have touched and inspired our next budding Mark Viduka somewhere out there.

There's no doubt in my mind, whilst there will be a huge turnover of personnel, we mustn't underestimate the next batch of youngsters who share the same ambition and dream, and while we should be grateful for the memories the current alumni have given the football family, we should also be excited by the prospect of what lays ahead. If the old adage of 'there's always someone stronger, faster and better coming through', then compared to what we have just witnessed, we have nothing to fear.

The administration just has to do its part and get the right coaches in the right places with the right philosophies.

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KAT'S CORNER

Socceroos

What a great Socceroo display against Serbia. Why couldn't we have started the World Cup with that same grit, determination, fighting spirit and that line up against Germany?

We were against the odds, but we won the game 2-1 against the Serbs, who in their own right are a very good opponent that also played their heart out to make the last 16. Brett Holman scored a great goal, and it was the first time I actually saw him run at players and have a shot! Great work and hope he keeps it up.

If only Luke Wilkshire could tucked that golden chance away in the last 10 minutes against Ghana, what a different story could have been. If only the referee could see that Harry Kewell's hand ball was not deliberate or Tim Cahill's tackle against Germany was not a red card. Yes, making the 16 was not out of our reach and with a bit of luck we certainly could have been there. The Australian public expected a wholehearted performance against Ghana and Serbia, and that's exactly what we got. We gained the respect of the world football public and our reputation restored. Congratulations guys, what a great performance.

Pim Verbeek's attack on his players in the Dutch press after the Germany game was very disappointing to say the least. Why would any coach consider doing such a thing in public? No wonder people were asking for his sacking. Dropping Kewell and Bresciano must have created a tense atmosphere in the camp, especially after the loss.

Prior to the World Cup commencing I mentioned in my column that the tournament will be bound by controversial refereeing decisions. And, how right I was! So

far, we have seen too many inconsistent decisions made by the officials that's it's proving to be an absolute joke. The way things are going at the moment don't be surprised if this year's World Cup winner will be thankful for a bit of luck due to the incompetence from the boys in the middle. For that, I'm sure!

Jubalani : The beach ball

This ball that is used in this World Cup is claimed to be the worst ball ever. A beach ball; A balloon; are just some of the comments used to describe it. I played with a similar ball in the Seniors World Cup in Thailand recently, and I must admit it is very hard to control. Your touch must be perfect, and when you kicked it there is no spin, instead the ball just flies! In this World Cup is it a coincidence that we have not seen the free kicks bend around the wall? Why are the best players in the world finding it hard to judge crosses? And, we have hardly seen any long passes executed with precision.

The reason is that the ball is hard to bend because it has no seams and it has no drag. I agree with Craig Johnston when he said it has changed the dynamics of the game. Next time a manufacturer wants to bring Scientifics into football, they and FIFA are well advised to talk to the players and ask for their input before such a disaster ever happens again. Bring back the Tango and the Questra! Now, they were the best balls by far.

Raul Blanco: Assistant Kiwi coach

Did you know that Raul Blanco, one time assistant coach of the Socceroos, is now assisting Ricky Herbert with New Zealand in South Africa? I'm sure Raul Blanco, who played in Argentina as a pro, has had a mas-

sive influence on this New Zealand team. His wealth of knowledge and experience and his methods of playing the game are an asset that I'm sure all the Kiwi players have benefitted from. Raul Blanco is one of my former coaches and a friend, so congratulations on a job well done!

Also, Ricky Herbert was my teammate in the Sydney Olympic team of 1981, and he can also take a well deserved bow for great job. Here is an A-League coach who earns the least out of the World Cup coaches, yet he has just proven he is more than capable of going head to head with the world's best, even giving Marcelo Lippi a run for his money!

Maradona: great coach?

So what makes a coach good? Obviously some gauge success by results and winning. How is that achieved? Firstly, you must have the players. Without the cattle, no matter how much knowledge of the game you have or clever tactics up your sleeve, you must have the players to implement those instructions. Then you need to have people skills to command their respect and trust and be able to manage players and the different personalities, not to mention the ability to read the game and make the appropriate changes where the team needs it. So, if you're a coach can you please do a self analysis!

So, let's talk about Maradona. Who says he is not as good as coach as suggested? I hear these so called experts telling us how he used 80 or 90 players to qualify, and he has no clue! I bet they are not saying this now especially with the results and the quality of football that Argentina are delivering. Maybe after this World Cup they will realise that to coach footballers you don't necessarily need a university

Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. www.technikfootball.com



King of the Kids: Kat coaching kids recently in Phuket, Thailand.

degree, but rather, people skills and football knowledge, and Maradona is showing he has plenty of both. I bet it also raises the questions about those expensive coaching courses and accreditations around the world. Are they warranted?

I bet Maradona has none and this is the other reason for all that organised criticism about him not being a good coach. Get it? The system does not like it! If good coaching is all about having an open mind and accepting different philosophies, who's to say that Maradona's isn't just as valid as anyone else's? I mean, he wasn't the greatest player on the planet for nothing!

What manager kisses his players? It is

evident that he has an incredible bond with them and he shares an amazing passion to win, which reflects on his players. He is feeling every pass, every move and every goal, and I'm just loving it! Even the press can't wait for his interviews because they are so colourful! Suck it, and keep sucking it, indeed!

Also, let's not forget that this crop of teams from South America are the best ever. Chile, how good are they? Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil? I wonder why qualifying was so difficult this time around. One small slip, and you're a goner!

See you all next week!

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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



The World Cup continues in Ernest, where the once Powerhouses, Italy and France failed to qualify past the Group stage.

The French Camp was torn apart with internal bickering, and a mutiny on the Coach, something that did them no favors in this campaign.

The Socceroos bowed out in style, having secured a Happy End against Serbia; however, it was not enough to allow them to qualify to the knock put stage.

Pim has packed his bags and is on his way to Morocco, where a plum job awaits him and his popularity level here in Australia is about as good as Kevin Rudd's.

An associate contacted me during the week saying that he had sketchy details of an interview that Pim did with the Dutch Press, and his views on the Australian Team, and its players were far

from flattering.

It is alleged that he said something along the lines of he would have preferred to be coaching the German's and not the Aussies in their recent match, and he labeled one Socceroo something that you find running at Sandown Park on a Thursday night.

I cannot verify the above and write it with caution, as Google searches on a Sunday Morning after a night out with J Walker is not one of my strengths.

Nevertheless, I hope that the above was not correct for if it is, Ben and Co from the FFA have a lot to answer for, as to why Verbeek was not removed straight after announcing his intentions to move on after the World Cup Finals, 6 months ago.

I agree with Craig Foster on this one, he should have gone then, for his interest levels in the World Cup Finals is about as good as a Nun walking into an

all Male Jacuzzi.

However, Ben and Co will continue the search for a replacement, and any young filly's working at the Office's of the FFA, stock up on your make up; get those fish net stockings out, and spray on your best Cologne (Issye Miyake is Katsa's favourite), as word around the traps is that the name of Sven-Goran Eriksson has been put forward as a candidate.

Sven has a hard, sorry soft spot, for Female employees of Football Federation's, with a great track record wooing them of their feet, (now use your imagination as to what happens when one loses her feet) his last gig in England is proof of this.

Back to the local scene we go where I was fortunate to attend Northcote City's 50 Year Gala Ball.

It was a great night and very professionally run, with past Presidents be-

ing honored and the Team of the Half Century being named.

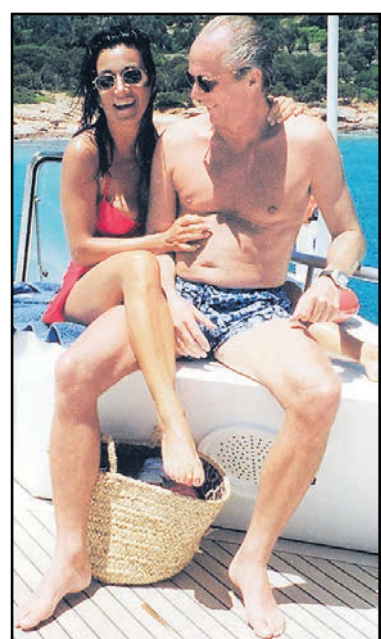
It was attended by not only Northcote City people, but with the Crème de la Crème of Club Powerbrokers from other Clubs, and the talk flowed freely about all things Soccer, ably aided by J Walker!

Until next week

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him

And remember, if you are a Coach, and you want to keep your job, make sure that Craig Foster does not know that you exist.

Workaholic Sven puts in the hard yards at a recent federation headquarters casual day.





With Leroy Robinson in the UK

ITALY AND FRANCE – WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

By Leroy Robinson

With more than half the field pared from the World Cup there seems to be a trend, most of it downward for teams from Africa and Europe. Europe has six teams left in competition and it will be down to three as England and Germany meet in the last round of 16, as do Spain and Portugal, and the Netherlands and Slovakia. Ghana has been the only success story for Africa with Ghana in the last eight.

What the hell happened? Several “lame duck” coaches were let down by anaemic performances. Having a lame duck coach may have helped Spain win the 2008 European Championships, but it’s hardly a blueprint for stability. I’ve always been more of a fan of starting a tournament with a coach you intend to keep after the event. This year it just hasn’t happened. Is it a reason for failure? Judge for yourself by looking at some of the teams that didn’t make it into the last 16.

Group A: France coach Raymond Domenech’s replacement was already named before the tournament started. One wonders why Laurent Blanc didn’t play some part in the proceedings. Then again, he’s probably pleased he didn’t. **Bafana Bafana’s** Carlos Alberto Parreira was a temporary coach, drafted in because of their poor pre-tournament.

Group B: Greece coach Otto Rehhagel’s contract expires at the end of the tournament. **Nigeria** coach Lars Lagerbeck is yet another coach installed into the job because of poor form in the months leading up to the event. There’s no word on whether he’ll be around but I wouldn’t count on it – the expiry date of coaches in Africa is shorter than a loaf of bread.

Group E: Cameroon coach Paul Le Guen took over a talented Cameroon squad under a year ago but he is another coach who has resigned after an awful campaign. This is a somewhat hollow gesture given his contract expired after the World Cup.

Group F: Italy announced that coach Marcello Lippi was to be replaced at the end of the tournament with Cesare Prandelli. Lippi didn’t help himself by picking a squad full of non-creative players.

Group G: Ivory Coast coach Sven Goran Eriksson – only three months into his job – resigned after World Cup failure. Stability may not be the be all and end all but surely it’s the height of amateurishness to appoint a new coach 3 months before such a major event and expect to qualify from a group including Portugal and Brazil.



Finita la musica, passata la fiesta: The party is over for an ageing Italy as it missed out on the musical chairs of the World Cup, crashing out from the Group stages for the first time since 1974.

It could be that none of these teams were good enough in the first place. Or, especially in the case of Ivory Coast, that too much pressure was put on one player to perform. There are of course exceptions. Germany look to be changing their coach after the World Cup but Joachim Löw has been in the job nearly four years and, let’s face it, nothing ruffles the unflappable Germans aside from defeat by England (fingers crossed).

SOUTH AMERICANS TAKE OVER SOUTH AFRICA

For the first time ever both finalists have been bumped in the first round of the competition, with Uruguay and Paraguay topping their respective groups. So does this mean we should all hail South America as the new home of football? Not yet. True, we never expected the attacking football of Chile and Paraguay. But the World Cup doesn’t start until the knock out phase and its how these teams perform under pressure that will define them. The last three World Cups have featured France, Italy, Brazil and Germany. Though I expect England to beat a young German team in the round of 16 match I wouldn’t look beyond Brazil getting to the final and meeting Spain.

So is this South American ascendancy just a flash in the pan? No. South America teams like Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay have gotten to the round of 16 before and usually get beaten by the greater football powers. The difference this time is that, with the exception of Brazil and Chile, who play each other, the others are favourites to progress to the last 8 of the competition. Indeed Uruguay has already done the business. What does their success tell us? It tells us their attacking football, allayed to

the usual South American grit, is good enough to overcome the ponderous, negative play of teams like Italy and France, who thought turning up would be enough to get their opponents running for cover. Whilst the French have no legitimate excuse for failure (unless quitting is one) the Italians can point to a total lack of creative talent, not just in their squad, but in their league.

ADVICE TO ITALY: GROW YOUR OWN

The complaint we hear in England is that there are too many foreign players in the EPL. To an extent that is true but there should be - and there is - enough English talent to provide stiff opposition to any international team. The problem Italy has – even though they have fewer foreigners in their league – is that foreign players take up the most pivotal parts of the teams, the creative parts. Take Inter Milan. Wesley Sneijder is their creative player. AC Milan has Ronaldinho. Juventus have Diego, another Brazilian. Napoli has Hamsik, Palermo has Cavani, and the list goes on. The inherit negativity of Italian football dictates that you can’t have more than one of these types of players in your team, so where does that leave players like Sebastian Giovinco of Juventus? On the bench.

England, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands are fortunate to have home-grown players who not only play regularly for their clubs, but in creative roles. Ozil, Muller, Lampard, Gerrard, Sneijder, Robben, Xavi, Iniesta. Add a lack of creative talent with a liberal dose of an ageing defence, along with a rookie goalkeeper, and you have Italy. The French have no such excuse. Blighted by big egos and shoddy squad selection they performed beyond their

wildest nightmares. Nicolas Anelka should never touch a Les Bleus chemise again, if only for his pitiful goalscoring record. And Henry should retire from international football – there’s a reason teenagers get picked for Barcelona ahead of him.

WEATHER OR NOT?

To be fair, Les Bleus are not making excuses, which is more that can be said for some. The latest I’ve heard to come out of South Africa is that the weather is too cold for the African teams - the tournament is being played in the middle of a particularly cold South African winter. After my laughter had died down I stopped to consider this excuse. After watching Cameroon lose their third match of the group, I wondered if they had a point.

Does the weather really affect how you play? As many of the African players have contracts with European clubs - in Germany, England and other cold counties - I’m sure their paymasters would be very interested to hear that the weather has an effect on performance, especially as this isn’t the first I’ve heard of it. Growing up, I heard the usual snide comments about black players not wishing to play if the weather dropped below 25 degrees (centigrade!). I heard the comments about black players wearing gloves and cycling shorts, and the comments querying if they’d like woolly hats too. Of course this stopped when white players wore them!

I won’t mention the African player who said it because I’ll put it down to a moment of madness. Though there was nothing wrong with this type of ignorance 25 years ago, to make that excuse now is scurrilous.

The players should be used to the cold and it’s rather stereotypical and errone-

ous to suggest that players born in the sun who earn a living in the colder cannot cope with a South African winter. The bottom line is if you don’t like the cold then go play in California.

NO EASY MATCHES

Aside from lame excuses, what we’ve learnt from the World Cup is that, aside from North Korea, there are no easy matches. Teams are more professional, more organised, and the flow of information means there are very few surprises left in world football. The traditional powers in football cannot get away with taking teams lightly anymore. As patronising as I could be to New Zealand and Algeria, the bottom line is, with organisation, desire, coaching and a fearless attitude you can produce results beyond your talent. Whereas with laziness, no collective work ethic, and a lack of responsibility and leadership you can be France.

All this adds up to a riveting set of knockout matches. Don’t expect many goals or many hammerings, just tight tense matches. This is the most exciting part of the World Cup. This is where the World Cup gets serious. So why am I just a little bit angry? I’ll answer by posing serious questions to FIFA president Sepp Blatter, in the hope they get through to him. **Why do you talk so much about fair play on the pitch and do so little off it?** Is it so hard to punish players who blatantly cheat by holding their face when they have been barged in the chest? Kader Keita played for the Ivory Coast in the 3-0 win over a spirited North Korea team, without any trace of the red face he should have sported after being outed for cheating. As he played I found myself cheering against a team I respected up until the game against Brazil, and hoping he’d find out what it was really like to receive a bony elbow joint to the grill.

Yet, in retrospect, I don’t blame Keita. If you could charge through red lights with impunity and knock down little old ladies in your Ferrari (use your imagination if you don’t have a Ferrari!) then you’d do it. Until the pressure is put on FIFA to really promote fair play and enact retrospective punishments to cheats like Keita then they’re just paying lip service to the idea of fair play and allowing players to cheat. They also need to look at rescinding red and yellow cards.

Will it get done? No. I imagine they’re more interested in not undermining the authority of the match official, even if they are wrong. As it stands, Keita would be in more trouble with FIFA if he turned up with several women at a World Cup match wearing clothing bearing the name of a non-FIFA sponsor. Surely that cannot be right. To those who think FIFA are right not to enact retrospective punishments I say this: Imagine if that was a semi-final and Kaka’ was sent off unjustly? Come on FIFA, it’s time to play fair.



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England V Germany – A Brief Footballing History

So England finally dragged out a half decent performance from themselves in their last group game of the World Cup. A narrow victory over Slovenia, hardly a footballing powerhouse, now apparently means that England are going to win the whole tournament. And their first step on the path to immortality is an old friend, Germany.

Depending on your point of view, playing the Germans, especially this early, is either a good thing or a bad. Good because we get a chance to put one over on one of the premier footballing nations, who also happen to be particular rivals of ours, or bad because when it comes to big games between the two nations it's the Germans who usually come out on top.

The England/Germany rivalry is one of the most peculiar in all sports, as for the English it means a lot; arguably it is our biggest footballing rivalry. But on the German side it really doesn't mean a whole lot. The Germans seem to have much more hatred for the Dutch, whereas England are relegated to being a somewhat bothersome entity that occasionally reminds them that exist.

Despite the legitimacy of the rivalry being in question, at least on the German side, the two nations have had some classic battles over the years, and I'm not talking about the war, that's coming up later. So in case you're not aware of the best known games between the two sides, from English point of view of course, then here is a brief synopsis of the four games which have gone down in every Englishman's memory.

1966 – World Cup Final England 4 – 2 West Germany (after extra time)

The most amazing day of the English footballing nation, as England won their one and only World Cup, beating the Germans by four goals to two after extra time, at their own World Cup. This is the game that set up the footballing rivalry between the two nations, and so it was nice for the English to get the upper hand first, because they wouldn't be beating the Germans much over the next few years.

The game was one of the better World Cup finals, at least from an excitement standpoint, as England led Germany by two goals to one until the last minutes of the game, when the Germans nicked a goal back, sending the match into extra time. In the first half of extra time, England hero Geoff Hurst had a shot on goal which hit the crossbar, bounced down on the line, and then bounced out of the goal. The England players celebrated the dubious goal, which was eventually given by the linesman and the referee. Whether or not the ball actually crossed the line is still up for debate, in my opinion it didn't, but the goal stood and England were



Blighty FC get to put their towels on the deckchairs first in the 2001 WC qualifier in Munich.

ahead again.

And with time running out, England fans starting to empty from the stands onto the pitch, just as Hurst netted his hat-trick in arguably the most iconic moment of English football history. England won the game, at the home of all football Wembley Stadium, and lifted the trophy that has eluded them ever since.

1990 – World Cup Semi-Final England 1 – 1 Germany (Germany win 4-3 on penalties)

If 1966 was England's greatest moment in their football history, then 1990 was possibly their most painful, as England crashed out in the semi-finals of the World Cup on penalties, in a tournament that at times looked destined to be theirs.

Not much was expected from the England side going into the tournament, and yet the team grew with every game, getting better and better, and they undoubtedly put in one of the best England performances ever in this game, matching the much better German side through most of the match. This was the game in which Paul Gascoigne, Gazza to all England fans, picked up a yellow card, meaning he would miss the final if England got there, and then started crying, yet another emblazoned image on the English consciousness.

Both teams could have won the game,

but it was eventually decided on penalties. In case you don't know, the Germans are very good at penalties, and rarely miss, England on the other hand, not so much. And so it proved as Germany netted all theirs, with the English missing two, meaning that they would not be making it to their second World Cup final. England's increasingly bitter rivalry with the better footballing nation went on.

1996 – European Championships Semi-Final England 1 – 1 Germany (Germany win 6-5 on penalties)

This was the year that football was coming home, except nobody had told the Germans that. Much like their other semi final clash six years earlier, the match finished drawn at one all. It was another great game, with disallowed goals and very near misses, mixed in with an amazing, if at times a little overeager crowd, making the whole occasion one to remember.

For me personally this was a real footballing awakening, as I had not been watching the sport for that long, and how perfect it was for England to flame my hopes of victory before ultimately deflating me like air out of a balloon. The game ultimately went to penalties, the result of which had an eerie inevitability to them. England did manage to score all five pen-

alties this time, but so did the Germans, and it was left to defender Gareth Southgate to score one, which he of course did not. The German player did score, and England were out of a major semi-final on penalties again, and again it was to Germany.

2001 – World Cup Qualifying Germany 1 – 5 England

In qualification for the World Cup of 2002, England and Germany were drawn into the same qualifying group. The game that the two played at Wembley was a somewhat dismal affair, both in terms of the England performance and the game itself, as England lost one to nothing. The return match in Munich however, was much more memorable for all England fans.

Going into the game many pundits predicted that although this German side was not as strong as previous teams, it would be difficult for England to get a result in Germany. Luckily they were wrong, as England romped to a five to one victory, in which Michael Owen netted a hat-trick, and even Emile Heskey scored. Many German fans and ex-players sited this as one of Germany's worst defeats, in most part due to the score line, yet in the true test of this supposed rivalry many German fans were more pleased that the Dutch had failed to qualify for the World

Cup than disappointed that England had given them a bit of a spanking on home soil.

And so that is the England/Germany footballing rivalry through the most important games to England fans. There are games that I haven't mentioned, such as Germany beating England on several occasions, and England beating Germany at the European Championships in 2000, but the games I have mentioned are the ones which have really dictated how the rivalry has evolved through the years.

Unfortunately, the rivalry between the two nations isn't just to do with football. For me, for many England fans, and I'm sure for almost every German fan the rivalry between the two footballing nations is due to the classic encounters between the two countries, such as the much remembered matches that I mentioned above. Many of the most remembered English sporting moments came against Germany, such as the Geoff Hurst hat-trick, Gazza crying into his shirt, and England lifting the World Cup trophy. And from that standpoint the rivalry isn't a bitter one, it's just one of two top nations struggling to get the better of one another, and it's probably because the Germans are better than the English that we seem to feel the passion in the rivalry more.

But many English fans still view our rivalry through the prism of war. An English chant goes 'Two World Wars and One World Cup', and many English national newspaper headlines over the years, both before and after games between the two have used words like 'Blitz' and 'Surrender', with obvious connotations of both World Wars.

At times I am ashamed that one of our major sporting rivals are constantly linked with events which took place well over sixty years ago. Germany have shown that they have moved on from those events, a great example of which being the last World Cup which was staged in Germany, where a unified Germany put on a great show, both on and off the field, which was a delight for the world to see. On the other hand some sections of English fans, and more disappointingly some sections of the English press still immediately think of Germany in the context of war, and as a nation we should be embarrassed about it.

As far as the game goes this time round, England have a great chance of progressing, as man for man they are a better side than Germany. If the England players show the commitment that they displayed against Slovenia then I do see them winning by the odd goal. And you know what, even if the game does go to penalties, I still think we'll come out on top, as Germany have already missed a penalty in this World Cup. Then again, looking back at the English history of penalty taking, maybe we should try and win it in normal time.

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‘World of Soccer’ World Cup at Saxon Sports Enters Final 16

As we entered the Last 16 stage if the World of Soccer 2010 World Cup the intensity went up several notches.

All games saw referee’s Ash and Manny having to enforce the use of yellow and red cards - they made it clear that there was no place for unsociable soccer and did a sensational job.

Game of the round was Portugal V Italy - the two big guns with plenty of talent were all square at full time which meant the game moved into Golden Goal extra time. It took 8 minutes for the dead lock to be broken with both keeper’s pulling out some amazing saves until Portugal got thru the last line of defence to secure a quarter final spot.

Greece won a tight game over France with Jahid leading from the front with 4 goals, Netherland’s water tight defense assisted their push for World Cup glory with another strong performance, Nigeria caused the upset of the round with a 6-5 win over South Africa, Switzerland were always in control against Australia as Luca’s 4 goals took him to joint top of the Golden Boot Award, Paraguay have sneaked under the radar throughout the group stages and with a big win over Brazil and their goal scoring well shared they will be a tough opponent for Chile, who put on the nights best performance with a 15-0 win against the hapless German side. Completing the last 8 are Argentina after a solid victory against Cameroon.

So, the big question’s are - who’s the favourite and who’s the smoky? Nigeria is the smoky - qualified from 3rd spot and still going strong and the favourites - I’m on Chile - didn’t concede a goal tonight and if they can keep a strong finishing Paraguay at bay - they will deserve their semi final spot and be well placed to be holding aloft the World Cup on July 9!

The Golden Boot Award is going to go to the wire too! The top four are all in the quarter finals and none of them meet, meaning all four could still be goinf strong in the semi finals!

It has been an amazing event so far and we cant wait to see next weeks quarter final contests - the referees will again be red hot on any rough play and dissent - fair play will be the highest priority as usual - keeping all 5 players on the pitch will be the best way to progress to the next stage!

See you all there!

Leading Golden Boot:

Billy (Portugal) 21
Luca (Switzerland) 21
Jahid (Greece) 19
Victor (Chile) 18
Matt (Brazil) 17

The night’s Results:

Nigeria 6 v South Africa 5
Greece 6 v France 5
Switzerland 9 v Australia 4
Netherlands 8 v Serbia 3
Portugal 6 v Italy 5 (Golden Goal

Game)
Paraguay 8 v Brazil 3
Cameroon 3 v Argentina 11
Chile 15 v Germany 0 (Pretty easy win)

The night’s leading goal scorers:

Victor (Chile) 7
Luca (Switzerland) 6
Jahid (Greece) 4
Marcello (Chile) 4
Chris (Portugal) 4

Quarter Final Draw - FRIDAY JULY 2

(9) NIGERIA V SWITZERLAND
(10) PARAGUAY V CHILE
(11) GREECE V NETHERLANDS
(12) PORTUGAL V ARGENTINA

Champions league and Europa league starts October at Saxon sports Frankston. Prize money. Playing shirts. See www.saxon-sportsfrankston.com for details.

Don’t miss out!

WAG OF THE WEEK



Francesca Chillemi Age: 25
InSignificant Other: Italy and Liverpool’s, Alberto Aquilani.



COUCH POTATO DEPT.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Global Football Show

Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discusses local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA’s SportFM 91.3.



The Futbol Town Show
Every Monday
7pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Saturday
10.00am

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Wednesday
8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday
10.30am



Round of 16

53 - Mon 28-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Netherlands v Slovakia

54-Tues 29-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Brazil v Chile

55 -Tues 29-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Paraguay v Japan

56 - Wed 30-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Spain v Portugal

Quarter Finals

57 - Fri 02-Jul 23:30 LIVE
53 v 54
58 - Sat 03-Jul 04:00 LIVE
49 v 50
59 - Sat 03-Jul 23:30 LIVE
52 v 51
60 - Sun 04-Jul 04:00 LIVE
55 v 56

Semi Finals

61 - Wed 07-Jul 04:00 LIVE
58 v 57
62 - Thurs 08-Jul 04:00 LIVE
59 v 60

3rd & 4th Place Play-Off

63 - Sun 11-Jul 04:00 LIVE
61 (Losers) v 62 (Losers)

World Cup Final

64 - Mon 12-Jul 03:30 LIVE
61 v 62

Monday June 28th, 2010

5:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Match of the Day
10:00 pm Santo, Sam and Ed’s Cup Fever!
10:30 pm The 2010 FIFA World Cup Show
11:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: 5th Round of 16 - Live
2:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup Match Replay
4:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: 6th Round of 16 - Live

Tuesday June 29th, 2010

5:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Match of the Day
10:00 pm Santo, Sam and Ed’s Cup Fever!

10:30 pm The 2010 FIFA World Cup Show
11:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: 7th Round of 16 - Live
2:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup Match Replay
4:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: 8th Round of 16 - Live

Wednesday June 30th, 2010

10:00 pm Santo, Sam and Ed’s Cup Fever!
10:30 pm The 2010 FIFA World Cup Show
11:30 pm Film: The Miracle of Bern - A soccer-crazy 11-year-old boy dreams of watching Germany play in the World Cup in Bern in 1954.

Thursday July 1st, 2010

11:40 pm Never Say Die Matildas - Follows the Australian Women’s Football Team during a rollercoaster year in which, against all odds, they become one of the nation’s most successful sporting teams.

Friday July 2nd, 2010

8:30 pm The Unbelievable Story of the First World Cup: The Rimet Trophy - The story of the original World Cup, the Jules Rimet trophy, which was hidden from the Nazis under the bed of an Italian official during WWII, stolen in England, discovered by a dog, then stolen again in Rio, having

been awarded in perpetuity to Brazil where it was melted down into gold bars. The film talks to Brazilian, English, Italian and Spanish ex footballers, experts and sports journalists, about the twists and turns of the competitions which featured in its history.

11:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: 1st Quarter Final - Live - From Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Nelson Mandela Bay / Port Elizabeth.
2:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup Match Replay -
4:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup - 2nd Quarter Final - Live

Saturday July 3rd, 2010

5:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Match of the Day
8:30 pm Santo, Sam and Ed’s Cup Fever!
9:00 pm The 2010 FIFA World Cup Show
10:00 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Australian Match Highlights - Highlights of the Socceroos journey during the World Cup.
11:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: 3rd Quarter Final - Live - From Green Point Stadium, Cape Town.
4:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: 4th Quarter Final - Live - From Ellis Park Stadium, Johannesburg.





Nicholas Schwal

Bentleigh Greens FC

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

FULL NAME: Nicholas Schwal
BIRTHPLACE: Australia
BIRTH DATE: 11 11 1979
HEIGHT: 179
WEIGHT: 74
MARRIED: Engaged
CAR: AUDI A4T
NICKNAME: Schwally
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Nunawading City, Bulleen, East Altona, Heidelberg (Premiers), Essendon Royals, Preston Lions, Sunshine, Bentleigh Greens (Current)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Victorian Schoolboys 1996, 1997 Australian Champions.
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Franco Baresi
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Zinadine Zidane
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Peter Ollerton
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: 2002 Victorian Premier League Champions With Heidelberg
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Being at the World Cup Qualifier in Sydney 2005 against Uruguay
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: 1997 at St Kevins against Scotch College from the kick off
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Standing in puddles at Nunawading City Soccer Club, age 5
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not a having a top league in Australia between the age of 21 – 24. Missing playing at the highest level in Australia.
WORST INJURY: Hamstring and broken nose
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Manny Muscat
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Richmond
SUPERSTITIONS: Penne Napoli with peas before a game
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: As above
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Determination
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Getting old
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: AC Milan
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cycling
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Lance Armstrong
FAVOURITE FOODS: Mum's cooking and Wifey's cooking
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Leonardo Di Caprio, Keira Knightley
HOBBIES: Walking Milly (red Staffordshire Terrior) cycling with mates, cooking pizza's, fitness
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: The Chedi, Chiang Mai
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Rah Bar
IDEAL DATE: Dinner at Taxi with Wifey
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Ultimate Fighter, Master Chef, Miami Ink
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Florence And The Machines
FAVOURITE FILM: Black Hawk Down, Hurt Locker
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: I am an angry man
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Parents
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: The grounds in this league
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Assist Bentleigh to reach finals and play out a few more seasons.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Lance Armstrong
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP: Argentina

It's all in a struggle

On a week where the first round of group matches are concluding, Latin American outfits at this World Cup in South Africa look to be all heading into the next round at least of the tournament, into sudden-death stages and possibly quarter finals. It is a repeat of Italia '90 when all South American representatives were progressing simultaneously.

Uruguay topped group A followed by the Mexicans then Argentina who was re-vindicated their form in group B by topping with a maximum nine points and pleasing even the harshest of critics, to Maradona's previous tactical mess in his selection process and poor results that accompanied the two-time champion. Things have gone from strength to strength even if some players like Lionel Messi are yet to perform like in club level. Paraguay have also progressed alongside newcomers Slovakia at the expense of defending holders, Marcello Lippi's Italy.

It remains to be seen with the results in group G with Brazil whilst Chile and Honduras in group H seem to only have Marcelo Bielsa's men advancing depending on the result with current European holders, Vicente del Bosque's Spain outfit led on the field clearly by new Barcelona signing David Villa.

Argentina can count on their extremely charismatic, attention-seeking coach Diego Armando Maradona. Players admit that his sole presence in the dressing room provides appreciation and value of putting on an albiceleste jersey, representing millions of countrymen. It is a true childhood dream particularly for those poverty-stricken players that make way up the ranks, even in the social ladder in becoming a professional football player, let alone a national team World Cup call-up.

Another example of perseverance, resilience, self-belief, tenacity and determination whilst proving critics wrong are Argentina's goalscorers that sent Greece home, Bayern Munich's Martin Demichelis and formerly overlooked 37-year old marksman from Boca Juniors, Martín Palermo. The former battled depression for being omitted by now Chile's coach Marcelo Bielsa for the 2002 tournament co-hosted by Korea/Japan in the far East, leaving the pony-tailed defender on the verge of even committing suicide according to close sources at the time.

And with ten minutes to go, as the towering figure of "San Martín Palermo" lumbered onto the pitch in place of European top goalscorer of the year Diego Milito, the Greeks might as well have gone home; it was obvious what was going to happen. It is the most overused cliché in the Argentine media that the life of Martín Palermo reads like an overly sentimental film script. Today we saw further proof however that the bearded one upstairs (God, not Maradona) is directing his very own feature with the veteran striker as the star, as 'El Titán' and South Korea's joy became Greece's anguish. Breaking his leg dramatically during his spell with Villarreal years back in Spain's La Liga, most notably his dramatic three penalty-kick misses at a Copa America match against Colombia and his miraculous, salvaging last-minute gasp winner against Peru at the Monumental stadium in a torrential rain-soaked Buenos Aires on a night Argentina's qualification hopes were on a thin thread and Diego Maradona's reputation as the national idol, hero was all going down to shreds.

For all 'The Titan's' (el Titán, also nicknamed El Loco, the madman) many, many deficiencies as a footballer he has two things in his favour; he scores goals wherever he is, and he has an eye for the emotional and dramatic. Once again it was proved as Lionel Messi skinned the defence alive only to see yet another shot batted away by an enigmatic goalkeeper in Alexandros Tzorvas of Panathinaikos - followed by bedlam as Martín was left with the simplest of finishes five minutes into his World Cup debut. Palermo was then hugged by almost everyone who has ever stepped foot into the Argentina training camp, including the kind of embrace from his coach which recently meant Diego had to confirm he is dating a blonde 31-



year-old woman. Lionel Messi was equally effusive, and almost managed to hide the "what the heck do I have to do to score?" look on his face as he was bear-hugged by the comparatively giant Palermo.

Various online World Cup blogs have covered the "success" of particularly Latin American sides that have performed at this month's tournament. Away from the media hype on European sides, the highlight around the world wide web during this mega-month tournament is one written by English-born globetrotter, Tim Vickery based in Brazil. His decades of insight into the game from Rio de Janeiro has been invaluable.

Evaluating on the boring and unnecessary tactics based on the numerous draws carried out - a sign of change, a wind of new fresh air particularly Diego Maradona's Argentine compatriot whom he has praised to the local media, his once predecessor at Rosario outfit Newell's Old Boys, Marcelo Bielsa. At his beloved club, the leprosos, (the 'lepers'), witnesses noted his difference and focus on creating the best form of defence in attack at a time when South American football was focused on retaining possession - an attributed so characteristic in the DNA of players, in the culture and in the style of football play.

Quoting from his article on SBS' The World Game; he adds

"Bielsa used the press conference to outline his view that 4-3-1-2 was not the only way that football could be played. He sets up his teams on the following basis; in an attacking line-up, he sees no point in the conventional full-back. He wants his width higher up the field."

"If the opponent plays with two strikers he will have three at the back, two to mark and one to cover. A defensive midfielder will protect. And everyone else is primarily attacking - squeezing the opposition back in its half of the field. Successful sides are usually imitated, and future tournaments would be a lot more attractive with a few Bielsa clones in charge."

"He always goes with a front three - two wingers and a central striker. Behind them is an attacking midfielder. And the two wide players are expected to keep pushing forward - both at the same time, unlike the normal full-back. They link up with the winger to create two against one situations against the opposing full-back. All of this was on show against Honduras - especially in Jean Beausejour's goal that decided the game. Star of the show is right winger Alexis Sanchez, devilishly skillful. But his involvement in the move was as a decoy."

In fact the Udinese magician puts himself alongside those other skillful individuals that could do more justice with a goal to their name. His teammate at his north-

ern Italian club, Antonio di Natale played his part under Marcello Lippi's eliminated side revealing how lonely it is to be playing up front with systems of play that don't backup, with other attacking forward companions left far too static, unsupported and unimpressive at this world stage. One can recall the missed opportunity di Natale had whilst creating space under possession just under the hour against Slovakia until he rushed through on his right side, forgetting to lift his head up and look where to place the penetrating pass. Another chance gone begging for the Azzurri.

Pim Verbeek may as well learn a thing or two at the helm of the Socceroos' managerial position without his stubbornness to Marcelo Bielsa's offensive setup. It is about an inexcusable level of desire, hunger and motivation apart from tactical, physical and technical prowess a squad of players can boast. Italy showed barely any of it in the group stage leading to their "shock" exit. Anybody with a clear understanding of the game would verify that the title of World Champion was too big a name to be attached beside them even prior to the commencement to the tournament. Needlessly to say, the embarrassment of Raymond Domenech's French side needs little mention with Les Bleus sent packing and crushing into internal bickering within the squad.

Reflecting on the importance a coach's role has with the players, engaging that level of face-to-face confidence and rapport needed in the dressing room. Perhaps a natural disaster is the missing formula that may provide a difference between sides even before kick-off. Looking at New Zealand's performance, lacking the technical attributes their more fancied rivals possess, their simplicity of play made way alongside their courageous efforts and team unity. The simple fact of having qualified to this ultimate event by FIFA was motivating enough for the Kiwis.

Diego Forlán and Luis Suarez, who have led Uruguay's attack at the World Cup, heaped praise on their team's defenders after another clean sheet in Tuesday's 1-0 win over Mexico. Marshalled by captain Diego Lugano, Oscar Tabarez's men have an enviable mix of quality up front and at the back. That helped them hold France to a 0-0 draw in their first Group A game and a 3-0 victory over hosts South Africa. "We control games very well, mainly down to our amazing defence which is on great form," goal scorer Suarez told reporters. "We feel very safe with them and we have to have confidence in the great team we've got." Forlán, who scored two of the three goals against South Africa last week, echoed his praise. "Defensively this team is great and so well settled," he said. Lugano, also captain at Turkish outfit Fenerbahce was happy with his team's performance on Tuesday, saying they were in good shape heading into their last-16 match on Saturday in Port Elizabeth

with the runners-up of Group B.

"Our opponents are not only struggling to score, they're also creating very little, which shows we're a solid team," he said. After the news conference, the players got back on the team bus where they banged on the windows to the delight of fans beating a drum and chanting "Come on La Celeste (the Light Blues)" on the street below.

Paraguay carry their hopes with the remembrance of the tragic outcome of their star goalscorer Salvador Cabañas. The Paraguayan marksman who was alongside Chile's Humberto Suazo and Brazil's Luis Fabiano leading the goalscoring tally of the South American qualification round, was shot in the head with a bullet at a nightclub in Mexico City for whom he played for the country's most popular club, Club América. The bullet remains while his short-term memory severely damaged leaving him with very slim chances to ever play football again.

Their replacement, Argentine-born Lucas Barrios who defends for Bundesliga outfit Borussia Dortmund got his citizenship by way of his mother, fulfill his personal ambition, every footballers' dream and replace the dashed hopes of Cabañas in providing attacking prowess alongside Roque Santa Cruz, Benfica's Oscar Cardozo and his teammate at the Westfalia club, Nelson Aedo Valdéz who was also once homeless. Their draw to Italy by the football knowledgeable out there should very well not be cynically surprised about that result. The reflection of it all is the uprising nature in the character of players who strive to defy odds in their given lives and circumstances. The struggles undergone to reach a goal, and the ambition of moving forward and attaining achievements beyond anyone's wildest dreams and in fact, of their own.

Paraguay finished with five points in Group F. Slovakia, which upset defending champion Italy on Thursday, also advanced with four points. New Zealand finished third in the group with three points off as many draws, while the Italians finished last. "It was a very hard match, but in the end it was the most important thing to qualify," Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino said. "We had many problems in our attack today, to get through their defense. But the result is in our favour." Probably the best chance of the match came when Paraguay substitute Edgar Benítez struck a low shot that was saved by New Zealand goalkeeper Mark Paston in the 76th minute. The other notable moment came 12 minutes earlier, when Cristián Riveros headed straight at Paston from a short corner.

"Obviously, the first goal was to advance," said Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz. "Our job goes further than scoring goals. We have the job of making it difficult for the (opposing) defense to generate offense." The Paraguayans—who also reached the second

round at the World Cup in 1986, 1998 and 2002—continued South America's dominance of this tournament. The continent's teams have 10 wins, no losses and three draws. Four of the five South American squads have qualified for the next round and the fifth, Chile, can do so Friday night.

A few of the Paraguayan players pulled their socks off at the end of the match and threw them into the midfield section of the stands where their fans stood and cheered. Paraguay will play Tuesday in Pretoria against the second-place team from Group E, which was to be determined later Thursday.

Every day when Chile's players walk onto their World Cup practice field, the torn and muddled Chilean flag flying nearby serves as a reminder of just how much their country needs something to cheer for. The flag, ripped in the middle and covered in dirt, was pulled from the wreckage left behind by the earthquake and tsunami that hit the South American country in February, killing more than 500 people and leaving 200,000 homeless. It was held up by Bruno Sandoval, captured in an iconic Associated Press photograph, after he retrieved it from a flooded area in coastal Pelluhue—a moment that Chilean president Sebastian Piñera later hailed as "lifting the spirit of a country."

Now, the flag is serving the same purpose in South Africa.

"It's in our minds what happened with the catastrophe," Chile captain and goalkeeper Claudio Bravo said. "They brought the flag for that reason to remind us what happened in Chile, and that the whole nation is watching what we are doing." The flag has been hoisted outside the team's training base at the Ingwenyama complex near Nelspruit, providing an emotional spark for the players. "I always go by there after the training sessions, and for me it shows the suffering of our country during the earthquake and the tsunami," defender Waldo Ponce said. "It's an extra motivation to go onto the pitch and make sure that our work gives a little joy after what happened."

The decision to bring the flag to the World Cup has resonated back home, where massive efforts are still being made to rebuild regions that were destroyed by the quake. "In symbolic terms, it shows a super strong power, now that this flag in some ways shows how we have got back on our feet again," said Joan Bas, a 28-year-old Santiago-based sociologist who has been gathering citizen input for the plan to rebuild Constitución, whose coastal downtown was swept away by the tsunami.

"It has to do with being Chilean, characterized by this force, this muscular strength, this battering ram that the Chilean spirit has, and that you can see in the team's results. In some way Chile has this character ... and we see the flag representing our ability to keep advancing." Pedro Poblete lost his liquor store in the central town of Talca in the earthquake, and said watching Chile play at the World Cup helps him "forget that I'm homeless."

"That flag was a symbol that identifies all the people affected by the earthquake," Poblete said. "The fact that it's in South Africa representing us is like a part of us was there. We have suffered, we have bled, and we continue to bleed. To see the flag and the players soothes our pain." Chile has won both its games so far, but still needs at least a point against Spain on Friday in its last Group H match to guarantee a spot in the round of 16. It can advance even with a loss, as long as Switzerland does not beat Honduras and Chile ends up with a better goal difference.

"It would be illogical to train one way and play another," Bravo said. "We're preparing to play the same way we have been doing and we are not going to change just because one result might get us through." Bravo will be looking for a third straight clean sheet—which would guarantee that the Chilean flag keeps flying in South Africa for at least one more game and onto the sudden-death stage. "It's a very important issue for us, and we take it as a big motivation that has helped us a lot," Bravo said.



MACKENZIE AT LARGE

An Occasional Offering from Craig MacKenzie

Kryptonite KOs new media superman

DID you know that there are hundreds of journalists in mainstream media in Australia covering our game on an international level?

No? Neither did I. But given the saturation media coverage of something called the World Cup that I'm told is taking place in South Africa at the minute that would seem to be the case.

Those of us living in Melbourne have been privileged to gain an insight into the mental machinations of a scribbler called Paul Kent via the Herald-Sun and we quickly have learned that Kent is a journalist in the classic Murdoch mould – both provocative and smug.

Not content to completely dismiss the Socceroos' chances of qualifying for the finals in Brazil in 2014, Kent also beats his chest about how insightful he is. In fact, his comment piece a fortnight back in the Murdoch press went as far as to remind the rest of us of our rightful place in this society. Here, in part, is what our new soccer superman said:

"The Socceroos are doing their best but the rap on them before they arrived in South Africa – which was denied by all the so-called experts but which has become all too apparent [presumably to someone as intelligent as Kent] – is that compared to 2006 the current version of the Socceroos is they are four years older, not four years better.

"I said that a little while ago on a little TV show called The Back Page, but this great insight was overlooked by the great unwashed because nobody ever gets past Billy Birmingham's jokes, which can spring from anywhere ...

"Not nearly as funny is Australia will fail to qualify for the 2014 World Cup."

Once football's self-professed analyst



Luke Wilkshire, one of Australia's outstanding performers in South Africa and set to be a Socceroo mainstay for a few more years.

extraordinary (move over, Craig Foster) had dismantled from his giant steed he backtracked somewhat by posing what he thought was a rhetorical question supporting his theory of pending doom: "So is Australia good enough to qual-

ify with the likes of Mark Milligan, Josh Kennedy, Adam Federici, Brett Holman and Dario Vidosic?"

Well, as one of the great unwashed I'd like to direct my attention to this issue. First, Kent's question wrongly assumes that there are no other players able to take the step up and cement a

place in the Socceroos line-up. More importantly, that there are no other players able to do so and add quality to the team.

Now that's a pretty big call from my perspective as I understand that there are many youngsters with professional contracts overseas who are rapidly developing and who have the potential to form the basis of a strong national team.

And I'd like to call on a couple of current Socceroos – Tim Cahill and Jason Culina – to air their views on this subject. Here is what they had to say on Friday when greeted by the media at Sydney airport:

"We have young kids coming through and yes we might have a few older players retiring, but I'm positive for Australian football. It definitely won't be easy (qualifying for the next World Cup in Brazil in 2014), but the thing is we have got potential," said Cahill.

"I think things look great at the moment," was Culina's take on our 2014 chances. "There is a good mix of experience and young players coming through.

"Yeah, maybe we have three or four players who are going to retire but the young boys are coming through and now they have got the chance to show what they can do."

I guess you can take your pick here. You can side with Cahill and Culina or bow to Kent's "great insight".

Another aspect of Kent's yarn was the curious decision to omit Luke Wilkshire from his ramblings.

Putting aside the fact that Holman, whose credentials Kent clearly queries, has taken a giant step towards becoming a near cert for a regular Socceroo starting berth (in the process winning over many of his critics and I raise my own hand here), I thought that Wilkshire was outstanding in South Africa.

Nitpickers will criticise him for not clipping the ball over the advancing Ghanaian keeper and sealing the second game but the maturity and composure he regularly showed, the quality of the balls he was able to swing into the opposing penalty area, his aerobic capacity and his ability to also attend to his defensive responsibilities matched with the accuracy of his passing led me to give him a huge thumbs up.

And of the younger brigade I have great faith in Vidosic, Nikita Rukavyt-sya, Rhys Williams, Shane Lowry and Tommy Oar among others. Presumably Kent has heard of these players though of that group only Vidosic is deemed worthy of mention.

And when Kent mentions that Mark Schwarzer will be 41 in 2014 it's as if it's all over red rover. He queries Federici's quality as if these are the only goalkeeping choices we'll have in four years' time. You start to wonder if outstanding talent such as Mitch Langerak of Borussia Dortmund really exists or if, at 32 in 2014, Middlesbrough custodian Brad Jones will be over the hill.

It's stating the bleeding obvious to say that the game is one of opinion but for my money Kent's opinion is out there. Way out there.

I see no reason right now to be so pessimistic. Quite the opposite, in fact.

We are on the threshold of a new era for the Socceroos and we will continue to produce young talent that will develop into seasoned professionals with the quality to continue our journey throughout Asia and the world stage.

I think exciting times lie ahead. I also wonder who slipped the kryptonite into Mr Kent's back pocket.

SEWFA DETAILS

SEWFA LADDER									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
Palace	8	7	1	-	35	4	22		
City	8	6	2	-	37	1	20		
Wanderers	8	6	1	1	32	6	19		
County	8	3	2	3	9	12	11		
United	8	3	-	5	13	27	9		
Villa	8	2	1	5	8	46	7		
Portland	8	1	-	7	5	21	3		
Millicent	8	-	1	7	4	26	1		

SENIORS
County 1 d Millicent 0
Goal scorers: County - OG

City 11 d Villa 0
Goal scorers: City - L

SEWFA U14 LADDER									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
Wanderers	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	24	
Villa	8	6	-	2	-	-	-	18	
City	8	5	-	3	-	-	-	15	
Palace	8	3	-	5	-	-	-	9	
County	8	2	-	6	-	-	-	6	
Millicent	8	-	-	8	-	-	-	0	

Birch 3, J Smith 2, K Maczkowiack 2, M Thompson, K Henriksen 1, T Kourmouzis, T Grant

Wanderers 8 d United 1
Goal scorers: Wanderers

Portland - K Kilgour

UNDER 14S
County 3 d Millicent 2
Goal scorers: County - T Cella, J Boyd, E Schultz
Millicent - A Cooper 2

Palace 1 d City 0
Goal scorers: Palace - S McCarthy

Wanderers 6 d Villa 0
Goal scorers: Wanderers - M Iannella 3, M Sims 2, J White 1

Palace 4 d Portland 1
Goal scorers: Palace - J McCormick 2, G Tentye 2

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Lions on the prowl again

By Chris Correia

Stirling Lions moved to joint top of the APB Premier Division table after a 3-2 local derby win against Balcatta at Grindleford Reserve on Saturday.

The Lions led 2-0 with goals from Stef Frost and Mario Marcinko before Ashley Rosindale reduced the margin before the break.

Bobby Wilson restored the Lions two-goal cushion early in the second half, but a goal five minutes from time from Adam Tong gave the Lions some nervous moments near the end but they hung on for maximum points.

A resurgent Cockburn City continued their fine APB State Premier League form with a comfortable 4-1 victory over Armadale at Dalmatinac Park.

The home side blew out to a four goal half time lead, with central midfielder Adrian Webster scor-

ing a double either side of strikes from Rory Feely and Anthony Pereira, before Steve McDonald pulled back a consolation for the visitors.

Inglewood's impressive recent form continued with a 2-0 win over Mandurah in the APB State Premier League feature game at 6PR Stadium.

The win lifted Inglewood away from the foot of the table and giving them an important buffer away from the relegation zone. A first-half goal from Ryan Clarke and a penalty to Rory Grant early in the second half was able to seal the vital victory.

ECU Joondalup bounced back from their 4-1 defeat at Mandurah to upset league leaders Western Knights 2-1 at Edith Cowan University.

Inspirational skipper Dale McCulloch led the way, opening the scoring in the second minute and Garin Collins made it 2-0 late

on, with Daniel Micevski netting in stoppage-time for the visitors who had Anthony Campbell sent off just past the hour mark.

It was a deserved win for Syd Amphlett's side who limited the much-vaunted Knights outfit to mostly long-range efforts as they rekindled their own play-off hopes.

Sorrento is primed for an assault on the top four after a late comeback victory over a gallant Swan United at Percy Doyle Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

The 2-1 win cements Sorrento in fifth position on the APB State Premier League, while the result consigns Swan to the foot of the table.

A headed goal from imposing striker Liam Boland gave Swan the advantage in the 65th minute, but their lead was quickly curtailed by an aggressive Sorrento side thanks to late goals from Brodie Martin and Joe Lamplough.

NEXT ROUND

Round 16

Sat 10 Jul 3PM Armadale v Sorrento

Alfred Skeet Oval

Sat 10 Jul 3PM Stirling Lions v Cockburn

City Macedonia Park

Sat 10 Jul 3PM Swan United v Floreat

Athena

Swan Italian Club

Sat 10 Jul 3PM Western Knights v Ingle-

wood United Nash Field

Sat 10 Jul 3PM Mandurah City v Balcatta

Hyundai Stadium

Sun 11 Jul 3PM Perth SC v ECU Joonda-

lup

BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens

WA LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Western Knights	15	9	2	4	34	20	14	29
2 Stirling Lions	15	9	2	4	26	18	8	29
3 Floreat Athena	14	8	2	4	31	15	16	26
4 Perth SC	14	8	1	5	29	26	3	25
5 Sorrento	15	7	3	5	27	28	-1	24
6 ECU Joondalup	15	4	7	4	32	34	-2	19
7 Balcatta	15	5	2	8	27	33	-6	17
8 Mandurah City	15	5	2	8	25	33	-8	17
9 Inglewood United	15	5	2	8	19	29	-10	17
10 Cockburn City	15	4	4	7	25	27	-2	16
11 Armadale	15	4	4	7	22	27	-5	16
12 Swan United	15	3	5	7	16	23	-7	14

WA RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

ECU Joondalup 2 (McCulloch 2, Collins 83)
Western Knights 1 (Daniel Micevski 92)

Sorrento 2 (Martin 70, Lamplough 83) Swan
United 1 (Boland 64)

Inglewood United 2 (Clarke 39, Grant 55p)
Mandurah City 0

Cockburn City 4 (Webster 22, 43, Feely 27,
Pereira 37) Armadale 1 (McDonald 82)

Balcatta 2 (Rosindale 45, Tong 85)
Stirling Lions 3 (Frost 4, Marcinko 42, Wilson
53p)

Reserves

ECU Joondalup 2 Western Knights 3; Sorrento
1 Swan United 4; Inglewood United 2 Mandurah
City 1; Cockburn City 3 Armadale 2; Balcatta 4
Stirling Lions 1.

Under 18's

ECU Joondalup 1 Western Knights 0; Sorrento
1 Swan United 0; Inglewood United 3 Mandurah
City 0; Cockburn City 6 Armadale 2; Balcatta 1
Stirling Lions 5.

DIVISION ONE

First Team

Dianella White Eagles 0 Wanneroo City 3 (Cair-
ney 2, 78, McGahern 40p); Bayswater City 2
(Marulanda 4, 59) Forrestfield United 1 (Hart
67); Fremantle Spirit 2 (Lowie 22, 69p) Canning
City 3 (Trevisol 40, Sheehan 73, Newcombe
90p); Morley-Windmills 2 (Griffiths 52, Larkin 50)
Gosnells City 3 (Lally 37, Allen 31, Pomfret 60p);
Bunbury Forum Force 3 (McGee 57, Kavanagh
61, 73) Ashfield 1 (Moteroffo 64); Rockingham
City Queens Park.

Reserves

Dianella White Eagles 3 Wanneroo City 1; Bay-
swater City 2 Forrestfield United 1; Fremantle
Spirit 4 Canning City 3; Morley-Windmills 1
Gosnells City 2; Bunbury Forum Force 5 Ashfield
2; Rockingham City 1 Queens Park 5.

Under 18's

Dianella White Eagles 1 Wanneroo City 5; Bay-
swater City 1 Forrestfield United 5; Fremantle
Spirit 1 Canning City 0; Morley-Windmills 2
Gosnells City 6; Bunbury Forum Force 3 Ashfield
0; Rockingham City 5 Queens Park 4.



Swans 'keeper Daniel Agudelo watches Joe Lampough's free kick sail into the top corner.

PHOTO: BEN FITZPATRICK



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Stirling Lions 3 (Frost 4, Marcinko 42, Wilson
53p)

Floreat Athena 2 (Mikulic 56, Mirco 76) Perth SC
2 (Simpson 42, Onoforo 54).

Reserves
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City 1; Cockburn City 3 Armadale 2; Balcatta 4
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Canning City 3 (Trevisol 40, Sheehan 73, New-
combe 90p);

Morley-Windmills 2 (Griffiths 52, Larkin 50) Gos-
nells City 3 (Lally 37, Allen 31, Pomfret 60p);

Bunbury Forum Force 3
(McGee 57, Kavanagh 61, 73)
Ashfield 1 (Moteroffo 64);

Rockingham City 3 (Senior 5, 25, 38p)
Queens Park 0.

Reserves
Dianella White Eagles 3 Wanneroo City 1; Bay-
swater City 2 Forrestfield United 1; Fremantle
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Swans 'keeper Daniel Agudelo watches Joe Lampough's free kick sail into the top corner.

PHOTO: BEN FITZPATRICK



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NORTCOTE V MAGIC
MATCH DETAILS

In last week's GW we were unable to bring you the match details of the epic 7-5 match between Nortcote city and Altona Magic. Quite a number of readers rang the office during the week to enquire about the missing match stats. Unfortunately, the team sheets were not submitted to GW HQ by the FFV until Tuesday. So for the record, here it is:

Northcote City 7
Altona Magic 5

Northcote City:
C.Petropoulos, H.D'Agostino, A.Chiappetta, A. Jankovski, H. Kinigopoulos (T.Rixon 58'), J.Voulgaris, E.Soaes, N.Curtis (N.Tzoulis 89'), M.McGough (G.Papadopoulos 85'), B.Norton, J.Kalifatidis.

Goals: Norton 34' (pen), 84' (pen), Rixon 63', 65', Kalifatidis 67', 75', 88'.

Yellow cards: D'Agostino 30', Soaes 47', Chiapetta 83'.
Red Cards: None

Altona Magic:
A.Sfetopoulos, D.Mladenovic, K.Delev (J.Vasquez 90+2), K. Delev, P.Siveski, G.Papadopoulos (J.Duvceviski 85'), P.Cergovski, J.Thornley, S.Bozinovski, S.Kovacevic, G.Taleviski (D.Radojicic 67').

Goals: Thornley 33', 69', Taleviski 43', 48', Papadopoulos 67'.

Yellow cards : Taleviski 48', Mladenovic 54', Papdopoulos 60', Siveski 78'.
Red cards: None

Venue: John cain Memorial Park

Crook joins Corica on NYL staff

He won a Hyundai A-League title as an assistant coach with Sydney FC in the competition's inaugural season and will now aim to do the same with the Sky Blues' National Youth League side.

Former Tottenham Hotspur and Norwich City star Ian Crook signed on to be Steve Corica's assistant for the club's 2010/11 NYL campaign.

Crook, who assisted Pierre Littbarksi to Sydney FC's first piece of silverware in 2005/06, returns to the club after managerial roles with Japanese side Avispa Fukuoka, Newcastle Jets and Norwich City – the club where he enjoyed a stellar ten year career that included over 400 appearances.

"It's been great returning but there have been a lot of changes in the time that I have been away," Crook said. "The club has a new set-up with the training ground and the facilities there are magnificent."

"Steve has had a glittering career as a player culminating last year for him so I'm looking forward to working with him. He's been looking at players to bring in and I have too since coming back several weeks ago.

"We're gradually putting a squad together that will hopefully someday push into the first team and give a future to the club.

"I'm sure we will both learn from each other as well as help the boys improve. I'm looking forward to getting back into work now."

After an illustrious playing career with Tottenham Hotspur and Norwich City – where in 2002 he was voted into

the club's Hall of Fame – Crook began his coaching career as an assistant with Northern Spirit in 1999, where he spent two seasons.

He took his first head coaching role as manager of the Newcastle Jets in the now defunct National Soccer League (NSL) and enjoyed immediate success, taking them from the bottom to the pointy end of the competition and as a result received Coach of the Year honours.

In 2004 Crook took charge of football minnows American Samoa before taking an assistant role with the Australian U20 side. Then in 2005 he joined the Sky Blues and was part of the championship winning coaching staff.

"We were fortunate to have so many memorable moments in that first year," Crook said.

"Right from the beginning the club had the qualifiers for the Oceania Club Championship which we went on to win. This and other things culminating in the A-League grand-final. A thoroughly enjoyable day that I won't forget.

"I enjoyed my time overseas. I've definitely improved as a person and a coach."

Crook recently returned to Australia and is currently undertaking a coaching supervisory position with Sydney Olympic. Corica and Crook have secured a host of players for the upcoming season with the full squad to be announced soon.

Chairman praises Socceroos

Football Federation Australia Chairman Frank Lowy, AC, said the Qantas Socceroos represented Australia with courage and pride and matched their skills with the best teams in the world.

Speaking after they bowed out of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, Mr Lowy said the whole nation should be proud of the Socceroos' performance.

"Only 16 teams go through to the knock out rounds and it is unfortunate that we are not one of them this time but the Socceroos have further established their reputation as consistent performers at the highest international level," Mr Lowy said.

"We will reflect on and learn from this campaign and move quickly and decisively to prepare for a range of international matches before we play in the 2011 AFC Asian Cup in Qatar in January.

"In addition the 2014 FIFA World Cup campaign kicks off in the middle of next year and we have to identify and develop the next generation of Socceroos that

will see us qualifying for Brazil.

"The future is extremely bright for football in Australia and our search for a new international coach is at an advanced stage and we will continue to work on a number of initiatives that we will announce soon to bolster the skills in all levels of playing and coaching in the game so we can improve on our competitiveness at this level

"I would like to thank Head Coach Pim Verbeek and his staff for doing a fantastic job in qualifying the team for the FIFA World Cup™ and the AFC Asian Cup and for his significant contribution to football in Australia.

Finally, I would like the fans that travelled here to South Africa to support the Socceroos in their thousands and provide such an amazing atmosphere at our matches.

"They have shown the world how much Australians love football and how much support there is for the game in our country and our region."

Sky Blues down Rams 1-0

In their second game of the 2010/11 pre season, Hyundai A-League Champions Sydney FC recorded a last minute 1-0 win over a well drilled Macarthur Rams at Campbelltown Stadium on Tuesday night.

In front of over 2,100 local fans the Sky Blues dominated the first half but couldn't break through the Rams defence before snatching a 90th minute winner through striker Dimitri Petratos.

After a five on three break a frantic ten seconds of shots on goal and attempted clearances ended with Petratos smashing home the winner to maintain coach Vitezslav Lavicka's unbeaten run in pre-season fixtures.

Sydney FC's next preseason match will be against the Marconi Stallions at Marconi Stadium on Wednesday 30 June. Kick-off is at 7:30pm.



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South Hobart extend lead at the top to a whopping 16 points

By Nektar Vavoulas

South Hobart edged closer to their third successive Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League Premiership after overcoming third placed Tilford Zebras 3-2 on Friday evening at KGV Park.

It was the Zebras who took the lead early in the first half when winger Jayden Welch stole in from the left wing, his pull back to Dwayne Walsh was mishit into the path of midfielder Paul Cairns whose shot found the back of the net from short range.

Zebras goalkeeper Troy Kaden was busy in the first half keeping out good efforts on goal from Andy Brennan and Jonathon Lo. South had their deserved equaliser when a long ball from defender Liam Scott was not dealt with by the Zebras defence and the league's leading scorer Lo, was there to side foot home from 15 yards.

South took the lead before half time after a marauding run by the dangerous Scott saw him feed striker Brennan whose initial shot was cleared off the line straight back into his path and he made no mistake to score his 11th of the season.

The away side extended their lead in the second half, Kostas Kanakaris' pinpoint corner was headed home by midfielder Tom Roach to maintain South's grasp on the Southern Premiership title.

The Zebras never gave up and the speed of their attackers, Ben Crosswell, Walsh and Jayden Welsh caused havoc for the South rearguard. The Black and White gave themselves hope of levelling the game when substitute Josh Thorpe's volley from the edge of the box found its way into the back of the net to set up an exciting finish to the game. Midfielder Ricky Self's thunderous effort in the last moments of the game when agonisingly wide but Ken Morton's side could be denied their 14th straight league victory this season.

Glenorchy Knights missed the opportunity to get a strangle hold on second spot after being outplayed on a freezing cold evening at Wentworth Park.

Young striker Andy Barron was the chief destroyer, scoring twice in the first half to give the home side a comfortable 2-0 victory and a 4 point break over Kingborough Lions for the important 4th spot. Barron was a replacement for suspended

striker Ben Hamlett and he took his opportunity with both hands much to the delight of coach Andrew Brown.

New Town Eagles pulled themselves within a point of 5th placed Kingborough Lions after beating them 3-1 away at Lightwood Park. Eagles scored twice in quick succession in the first half to give them a 2-0 lead at the break. The Lions came out strong after the interval, and defender Damian Pearce gave them hope after scoring following a corner. The Eagles were not to be denied, and recent signing and substitute Blayne Hudson put the result beyond doubt in stoppage time with a stunning strike from distance.

In the Forest Tasmania Northern Premier League, Northern Rangers maintained their lead at the top following a 4-1 victory over bottom placed Launceston United.

In a tightly contested league, both Riverside Olympic and Devonport City remain 1 point behind after comfortable victories against Prospect Knights and Launceston City respectively. In the remaining clash Burnie United travelled to Cardigan Street, Somerset and came away 4-2 victors.

NORTH RESULTS	
Devonport City 4	Launceston City 1 HT 1-0
Launceston United 1	Northern Rangers 4 HT 1-0
Riverside Olympic 4	Prospect Knights 1 HT 1-0
Somerset 2	Burnie United 4 HT 2-1

SOUTH RESULTS	
Tilford Zebras 2	South Hobart 3 HT 1-2
Kingborough Lions 1	New Town Eagles 3 HT 0-2
Clarence United 2	Glenorchy Knights 0
Taroona 0	Olympia FC Warriors 2

NORTH LADDER	
	P W D L F A Pts
Northern Rangers	10 7 3 0 35 14 24
Riverside Olympic	11 7 2 2 37 11 23
Devonport City	10 7 2 1 37 15 23
Prospect Knights	11 6 1 4 36 30 19
Burnie United	11 6 0 5 40 25 18
Ulverstone	10 5 1 4 29 22 16
Somerset	11 4 0 7 24 40 12
Launceston City	11 1 1 9 20 34 4
Launceston United	11 0 0 11 10 74 0

SOUTH LADDER	
	P W D L F A Pts
South Hobart	15 14 1 0 47 11 43
Tilford Zebras	15 8 3 4 38 31 27
Glenorchy Knights	14 7 3 4 30 24 24
Clarence United	15 6 4 5 31 30 21
Kingborough Lions	15 5 3 7 19 27 18
New Town Eagles	15 4 4 7 28 30 16
Taroona	14 2 2 10 19 40 8
Olympia FC Warriors	15 1 4 10 15 34 7

NTH NEXT ROUND	
Round 13	
Saturday 3rd July	
Prospect Knights v Burnie United	Harley Parade 2.30pm
Somerset v Devonport City	Cardigan Street 2.30pm
Ulverstone v Launceston United	Ulverstone Showgrounds 2.30pm
Northern Rangers v Riverside Olympic	NTCA 6.30pm
Launceston City	- Bye

STH NEXT ROUND	
Round 16	
Saturday 3rd July	
Taroona v Tilford Zebras	Kelvedon Park 2.30pm
South Hobart v Kingborough Lions	South Hobart 2.30pm
Sunday 4th July	
New Town Eagles v Glenorchy Knights	Clare Street 2.30pm
Hobart Olympia v Clarence United	South Hobart 2.30pm



South Hobart's Tom Roach beats Zebras keeper Troy Kaden in the corresponding fixture earlier this year. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS





South Hobart striker Andy Brennan netted his 11th goal of the season in the 3-2 win over Tilford Zebras. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS


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Monday 28th June 2010

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Outstanding Langy Fire to Second

By Aritro Abedin

St.Albans returned to winning ways with a blistering 4-0 win at Kingston Heath to regain some confidence going into the business end of the season.

The Saints came out all guns firing and dominated the early exchanges, although a Taz Psonis free-kick nearly gave Malvern the lead against the run of play in the 10th minute. However it was to prove to be a rare moment of goalmouth action for Malvern with the Saints running riot for the rest of the game. Metin Alebeyi’s corner picked out Maks Cruze in the box, who finished neatly with his head to give St.Albans a 1-0 advantage in the 16th minute. Ivo Razov’s through ball then opened the way for Martin hana, whose near post finish sent his side into the break with a thoroughly deserved 2-0 advantage.

It was more of the same in the second half with substitute Goran Jozeljic making an immediate impact, scoring his side’s third goal with his first touch of the game. Finally Metin Alibeyi rounded off a comprehensive 4-0 thrashing with a late goal which capped off a man of the match performance. It was St.Albans’ first win in six games in what has been an indifferent season for Kruni Razov’s talented side. Next week’s Croatian derby against North Geelong Warriors will prove to be a desperately important encounter in deciding their fate for the season, and after the early season fireworks at Churchill Reserve it promises to be a superb contest.

Meanwhile North Geelong slumped to a 2-1 home loss to George Kakaletsis’ unpredictable Pascoe Vale side at Elcho Park on Saturday. Pascoe Vale have rarely managed to put their best eleven players on the park this season, but this was a rare occasion in which all their best players were available for selection. The visitors started brightly with some crisp passing play early in the first half, and new signing Nana Addo pressed home the advantage with a well taken header to give his side a 12th minute lead. The former Brunswick striker was also involved in his side’s second goal, putting Luca Santilli through for a 50th minute strike that marked his fifth goal in the last two games.

The Warriors managed to pull one back through Robert Zadworny, but the result was never in any real doubt and George Kakaletsis was able to reflect on a thoroughly well deserved win. ‘It’s really tough to go up there for any team, it’s probably the toughest in the division so we were absolutely rapt to get the three points. We’re a good attacking side, probably one of the best in this division and if we put away half our chances we’d probably be winning games three or four nil and putting sides under real pressure.’

Whittlesea Zebras were unable to arrest what has been a rather remarkable slide down the table, as the visiting Fawkner Blues took the three points in a 2-0 result at Epping Soccer Stadium to move to within 2 points of the top of the table. The Blues dominated the early exchanges, but it took until the 30th minute for them to break the deadlock with midfielder Ossie Kose nearly breaking the net with a twenty five yard wonder strike that gave the keeper no chance whatsoever.

This gave the young Fawkner side a massive lift and they went on to create a fleet of chances after that, hitting the upright once, the crossbar twice and missing a one on one before their sharp-shooter Ridvan Saglam popped up with a composed finish in the 77th minute to



Joe Suric (St Albans) charges through the midfield. Andy Jerez (centre) tries to restrain him while George Kotsiris sets off on a covering run. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

put the result beyond doubt. Fawkner coach Ken Murphy was philosophical about his side’s season, acknowledging the financial hurdles that the club have overcome in order to find themselves in third place at this stage of the season. ‘We got ourselves in a bit of trouble at the start of the season, but it’s worked out well because it forced us to go out and sign the best young players we could find, and we’ve been really fortunate to get some really good boys in. We’ve also had three or four players come through our reserve team- we actually gave a debut to an eighteen year old today- and players like Nej Saha have been fantastic for us. Luka Anifaloyin is another one, he’s 24 years old and he’s just about our best player every week.’ The blues had nine players under the age of 21 in their match-day squad, and their exuberance on the pitch has been the driving factor behind a number of their wins this season.

In other results, Lorenc Kindtner’s Western Suburbs side recovered from last week’s reverse against Fawkner with a resounding 3-0 win at home over Clifton Hill. The visitors are still in the process of adjusting to the appointment of new coach Alex Kiratzoglu, and their win last week was a ray of sunshine in an otherwise awful season. However the Western Suburbs onslaught proved too much a side that still hasn’t escaped its tendency to commit blunders in defence. Suburbs’ seventeen year old wonder-kid Nicholas Scerri notched up a double in what will be one of his last appearances in the club’s colours before he heads off to join Torquay United, and it was another superb display from a player who promises much bigger things in the years ahead. Western Suburbs now go to fifth place in the league, four points out of the promotion zone.

Finally, Langwarrin followed up last week’s superb win over North Geelong with a 4-1 thumping of cellar-dwelling Preston Lions to go into second place. The usual names were on the scoresheet, with striker Caleb Nicholes adding another one to his tally and Matthew Durand notching up a brace to continue his outstanding form in front of goal this season. Bulleen play Springvale White Eagles in a top of the table contest on Monday night. Match takes place at the Veneto Social Club and KO 8.30pm.



St Albans' Tomi Razov tries to get a slide in against his Bulleen Lions opponent during the 2-2 draw yesterday. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Brian Chesson (St Albans) makes things difficult for Andy Jerez. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

SL1 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors 1
(R Zadworny)
Pascoe Vale 2
(N Addo L Santilli),

Malvern City 0
St Albans Saints 4 (M Alibeyi
G Jozeljic MA Poggenberg MJ Cuze),

Whittlesea Zebras 0
Fawkner Blues 2 (R Saglam),

Preston Lions 1 (R Najdovski)
Langwarrin 4 (M Durand 2 S Mur C Nicholes),

Western Suburbs 3
(N Scerri 2 J Kamasz)
FC Clifton Hill 0

Under 21s:
North Geelong Warriors 2 Pascoe Vale 4, Malvern City 1 St Albans Saints 2, Western Suburbs FC Clifton Hill , Whittlesea Zebras 2 Fawkner Blues 1, Preston Lions 2 Langwarrin 5

SL1 NEXT ROUND

Round 12
North Geelong Warriors v St Albans Saints
Elcho Park
Fri 2 Jul KO 8:30PM

Fawkner Blues v FC Clifton Hill
CB Smith Reserve
Sat 3 Jul KO 3:00PM

Malvern City v Springvale White Eagles
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sat 3 Jul KO 3:00PM

Whittlesea Zebras v FC Bulleen Lions
Epping Soccer Stadium
Sun 4 Jul KO 3:00PM

Preston Lions v Pascoe Vale
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 4 Jul KO 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Langwarrin
Ralph Reserve
Sun 4 Jul KO 3:00PM

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springvale White Eagles	10	7	2	1	23	12	23
Langwarrin	11	7	1	3	26	18	22
Fawkner Blues	11	6	3	2	16	12	21
FC Bulleen Lions	10	5	3	2	20	8	18
Western Suburbs	11	5	3	3	20	13	18
North Geelong Warriors	11	4	4	3	16	9	16
Pascoe Vale	11	5	1	5	16	15	16
Whittlesea Zebras	11	5	1	5	17	18	16
St Albans Saints	11	3	7	1	24	18	13
Malvern City	11	3	0	8	9	29	9
FC Clifton Hill	11	2	0	9	14	25	6
Preston Lions	11	0	1	10	8	32	1

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Geelong Warriors	11	7	3	1	24	8	24
FC Bulleen Lions	10	7	2	1	23	8	23
Langwarrin	11	7	2	2	22	12	23
Springvale White Eagles	10	6	1	3	19	14	19
Western Suburbs	9	5	1	3	18	18	16
Pascoe Vale	11	5	0	6	26	21	15
Whittlesea Zebras	10	4	3	3	17	15	15
St Albans Saints	11	5	1	5	19	16	13
Preston Lions	11	2	7	19	25	8	8
Malvern City	11	2	2	7	15	29	8
FC Clifton Hill	10	1	3	6	9	26	6
Fawkner Blues	11	1	2	8	5	24	5

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Altona City 3 (F Memish J Little N Cullen) Whittlesea Ranges 3 (C Vouloumanos S Lamanda 2), Altona East Phoenix 1 (T Antoniadis) Sydenham Park 0, Banyule City 1 (SE Dillon) Ballarat Red Devils 0, Geelong Rangers 1 (S Perinac) Brunswick City 1 (K Iakovidis), Moreland City 0 Port Melbourne 5 (E Vassiliadis R O'Hare 2 T Aksoyoglu J Di Lorio), Werribee City 2 (JC Spiteri J Vukovic) Williamstown 0

Altona City 2 Whittlesea Ranges 2, Altona East Phoenix 1 Sydenham Park 0, Banyule City 1 Ballarat Red Devils 2, Geelong Rangers 0 Brunswick City 0, Moreland City 0 Port Melbourne 0, Werribee City 2 Williamstown 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Port Melbourne	11	7	3	1	19	5	24		Whittlesea Ranges	11	9	2	0	30	11	29	
Whittlesea Ranges	11	6	4	1	21	13	22		Moreland City	11	8	1	2	24	17	25	
Brunswick City	11	6	2	3	18	12	20		Ballarat Red Devils	11	7	1	3	23	19	22	
Werribee City	11	5	3	3	15	12	18		Port Melbourne	11	6	3	2	17	10	21	
Williamstown	11	5	3	3	10	9	18		Altona City	11	5	5	1	18	12	20	
Altona East Phoenix	11	4	5	2	17	10	17		Brunswick City	11	4	3	4	18	17	15	
Banyule City	11	3	4	4	13	14	13		Sydenham Park	11	3	2	6	16	20	11	
Altona City	11	3	4	4	17	19	13		Werribee City	11	3	1	7	18	20	11	
Moreland City	11	4	1	6	16	21	13		Banyule City	11	2	3	6	11	15	9	
Ballarat Red Devils	11	2	2	7	10	17	8		Williamstown	11	2	3	6	10	18	9	
Geelong Rangers	11	2	2	7	7	21	8		Geelong Rangers	11	2	2	7	10	27	8	
Sydenham Park	11	1	3	7	5	15	6		Altona East Phoenix	11	2	0	9	10	19	6	

Seniors

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Reserves

Casey Comets 0 Diamond Valley Utd 1 (L Minopoulos), Eastern Lions 1 (MW Nyadzayo) Heatherton Utd 2 (A Sanad), Berwick City 1 (R Pasic) Frankston Pines 2 (E Southerington C Hodgson), Dandenong City Southern Suburbs , Southern Stars 0 Knox City 0, Morwell Pegasus 1 (C Cairns) Doncaster Rovers 2 (J Khalil 2)

Casey Comets 0 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Eastern Lions 2 Heatherton Utd 0, Berwick City 6 Frankston Pines 2, Dandenong City Southern Suburbs , Southern Stars 2 Knox City 3, Morwell Pegasus 1 Doncaster Rovers 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Southern Stars	11	9	2	0	27	10	29		Knox City	11	9	0	2	33	13	27	
Diamond Valley Utd	11	8	1	2	25	16	25		Diamond Valley Utd	11	8	1	2	33	13	25	
Morwell Pegasus	11	8	0	3	30	18	24		Southern Stars	11	7	0	4	39	20	21	
Dandenong City	10	5	2	3	30	13	17		Berwick City	11	7	0	4	21	25	21	
Casey Comets	11	5	2	4	20	17	17		Eastern Lions	11	6	1	4	19	14	19	
Knox City	11	4	4	3	16	15	16		Dandenong City	10	6	0	4	18	17	18	
Heatherton Utd	11	4	4	3	16	15	16		Casey Comets	11	4	2	5	17	17	14	
Doncaster Rovers	11	4	1	6	16	21	13		Doncaster Rovers	11	4	0	7	26	12	12	
Eastern Lions	11	3	2	6	17	21	11		Heatherton Utd	10	3	1	6	10	17	10	
Frankston Pines	11	3	1	7	12	24	10		Southern Suburbs	10	2	1	7	12	24	7	
Berwick City	11	1	2	8	9	21	5		Frankston Pines	11	2	1	8	14	33	7	
Southern Suburbs	10	0	1	9	10	27	1		Morwell Pegasus	10	2	1	7	21	45	7	

State NW 2

Altona City v Williamstown

HC Kim Reserve

Altona East Phoenix v Werribee City

Paisley Park

Banyule City v Brunswick City

Yallambie Park Reserve

Geelong Rangers v Whittlesea Ranges

Myers Reserve

Moreland City v Ballarat Red Devils

Campbell Reserve

Sydenham Park v Port Melbourne

Keilor Lodge Reserve

State SE 2

Doncaster Rovers v Diamond Valley Utd

Anderson Park Fri 2 Jul KO 8:30PM

Frankston Pines v Casey Comets

Monterey Reserve

Berwick City v Knox City

Jack Thomas Reserve

Dandenong City v Heatherton Utd

Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve

Southern Stars v Southern Suburbs

Seniors	STATE NORTH WEST 3						Reserves						Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 3						Reserves						Eastern Lions v Morwell Pegasus Gardiners Creek Reserve																																						
Hume Utd 0 Yarraville Glory 1 (H Timotheou), Lalor 0 Sunbury Utd 1 (D Murdaca), Maribyrnong Greens 1 (A Mesinovic) Keilor Park 3 (S Mussel B Malaga Own Goal), Melbourne University 2 (N Schaeer 2) La Trobe University 0, Essendon Utd 2 (P Devuono Own Goal) Geelong 7 (C Psimaris S Nikolovski M Nikolovski S Davison M Gorosito T Hardy 2), Westgate 1 (J D'Alessi) Cairnlea 1 (E Garcia)													Hume Utd 1 Yarraville Glory 3, Lalor 1 Sunbury Utd 4, Maribyrnong Greens 0 Keilor Park 7 (AA Gushman M Sirgiovanni A Chawp P Apostolakas J Bruzucchessi 2 MA Eskander), Melbourne University 0 La Trobe University 1, Essendon Utd 2 Geelong 3 (N Bosevski A Ilioski 2), Westgate 2 Cairnlea 1													Fitzroy City 2 (HF Wootton 2) South Springvale 3 (A Karanicolas GW Pearce N Papazyran), Peninsula Strikers 0 Nunawading City FC 2 (J Cirianni 2), Noble Park Utd 3 (N Salamandic CK Stern Jnr N Vukosavljevic) Waverley Wanderers 2 (D Ithier C(Bandis), Mornington 3 Croydon City Arrows 3 (N Verscharen S Carr DD McCandless), North Caulfield 1 (M Baker) Springvale City 0													Fitzroy City 2 South Springvale 2, Peninsula Strikers 1 Nunawading City FC 3, Noble Park Utd 9 Waverley Wanderers 1, Mornington 2 Croydon City Arrows 0, North Caulfield 1 Springvale City 6													State NW 3 Cairnlea v Sunbury Utd Cairnlea Park Hume Utd v La Trobe University Laura Douglas Reserve Lalor v Geelong RGC Cook Reserve Melb University Rangers SC v Keilor Park Princes Park (Parkville) Essendon Utd v Yarraville Glory Aberfeldie Park Westgate v Maribyrnong Greens Ardeer Reserve Sat 3 Jul KO 7:00PM												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT																									
Sunbury Utd	11	7	2	2	26	15	23	Sunbury Utd	11	9	2	0	30	12	29	South Springvale	11	8	2	1	29	9	26	Noble Park Utd	11	7	2	2	36	21	23		11	7	2	2	26	15	23																									
Yarraville Glory	11	7	2	2	22	12	23	Keilor Park	11	7	0	4	38	18	21	Noble Park Utd	11	8	2	1	25	12	26	Nunawading City FC	11	6	3	2	28	21	21		11	6	3	2	28	21	21																									
Keilor Park	11	6	3	2	18	13	21	La Trobe University	11	6	3	2	33	19	21	Mornington	11	6	2	3	26	16	20	South Springvale	11	5	5	1	22	12	20		11	5	5	1	22	12	20																									
Geelong	11	6	2	3	27	18	20	Cairnlea	10	6	3	1	32	21	21	Kingston City	10	6	1	3	18	13	19	Fitzroy City	11	5	4	2	30	17	19		11	5	4	2	30	17	19																									
Hume Utd	11	6	1	4	17	15	19	Geelong	11	4	4	3	21	28	16	Peninsula Strikers	11	5	2	4	13	16	17	Peninsula Strikers	11	5	4	2	27	17	19		11	5	4	2	27	17	19																									
Westgate	10	4	3	3	17	12	15	Melbourne University	11	4	1	6	22	17	13	North Caulfield	11	5	0	6	24	24	15	Mornington	11	4	5	2	27	19	17		11	4	5	2	27	19	17																									
La Trobe University	11	4	2	5	21	23	14	Essendon Utd	11	3	4	4	24	25	13	Fitzroy City	11	4	2	5	22	24	14	Croydon City Arrows	11	4	5	2	25	20	17		11	4	5	2	25	20	17																									
Cairnlea	10	4	0	6	21	16	12	Lalor	11	3	3	5	24	34	12	Nunawading City FC	11	4	2	5	9	15	14	Kingston City	10	4	3	3	28	16	15		10	4	3	3	28	16	15																									
Melbourne University	11	2	3	6	15	20	9	Hume Utd	11	3	1	7	33	36	10	Croydon City Arrows	11	3	3	5	18	20	12	Springvale City	11	3	1	7	22	38	10		11	3	1	7	22	38	10																									
Lalor	11	1	6	4	12	20	9	Yarraville Glory	11	4	1	6	22	28	10	Waverley Wanderers	11	2	3	6	9	17	9	Brandon Park	10	2	2	6	14	32	8		10	2	2	6	14	32	8																									
Maribyrnong Greens	11	3	1	7	12	25	7	Maribyrnong Greens	11	2	4	5	20	39	7	Springvale City	11	1	3	7	12	27	6	North Caulfield	11	2	1	8	23	36	7		11	2	1	8	23	36	7																									
Essendon Utd	11	1	3	7	15	34	6	Westgate	10	1	0	9	14	36	3	Brandon Park	10	1	2	7	13	26	5	Waverley Wanderers	11	0	1	10	10																																			

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST										Reserves									
Avondale Heights 2 FC Strathmore 2 (A Kranjinovic 2), Corio 1 (M Marinovic) Westvale 1, Elwood City 2 (D Nezos) South Yarra 2 (CN Maclean D Innes), Melbourne City 0 North Sunshine Eagles 3 (B Holod A Isai A Bek-tash), North City Lions 1 (K Risteviski) Laverton Park 0, Whittlesea Utd 1 (J Barrientos) Northern Falcons 0										Avondale Heights 4 FC Strathmore 1, Corio 3 Westvale 0, Elwood City 2 South Yarra 1, Melbourne City 2 North Sunshine Eagles 7, North City Lions 8 Laverton Park 1, Whittlesea Utd 2 Northern Falcons 2									
Corio	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		Avondale Heights	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T	
Avondale Heights	11	8	1	2	26	10	25			South Yarra	11	8	0	3	22	14	24		
Whittlesea Utd	11	7	2	2	22	15	23			Corio	11	6	2	3	24	10	20		
Laverton Park	11	6	2	3	21	13	20			FC Strathmore	11	6	2	3	17	19	20		
North Sunshine Eagles	11	5	1	5	17	13	16			Whittlesea Utd	11	5	4	2	21	9	19		
Westvale	11	4	2	5	11	10	14			North City Lions	11	6	1	4	22	15	19		
FC Strathmore	11	4	2	5	22	25	14			Laverton Park	11	5	1	5	12	17	16		
North City Lions	11	3	1	7	7	15	10			North Sunshine Eagles	11	4	3	4	26	17	15		
Northern Falcons	11	3	3	5	7	13	9			Westvale	11	4	1	6	17	27	13		
Elwood City	11	1	6	4	13	21	9			Elwood City	11	3	2	6	15	21	11		
South Yarra	11	1	6	4	5	15	9			Melbourne City	11	1	0	10	15	49	3		
Melbourne City	11	2	2	7	9	21	8			Northern Falcons	11	0	3	8	13	33	0		

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST										Reserves									
Boroondara Eagles Warragul Utd , Old Scotch 4 (N Jewitt 2 J Beamish 2) Dandenong Sparrows 1 (A Jennings), Doveton 6 (R Roslan 2 W Schemberl L Buhic 2 G Lane) Sandringham City 1 (J Gaynor), Monash University 5 (A Salmon M Goddard LP Johnson M Solovyev G Moka) Monbulk 3 (N Van Egmond D Van Egmond A Bezanovic), Old Camberwell Grammar Mooroolbark , Old Melburnians Beaumaris,										Boroondara Eagles 5 Warragul Utd 1, Old Scotch 1 Dandenong Sparrows 1, Doveton 1 Sandringham City 1, Monash University 1 (V Sinitsyn) Monbulk 3, Old Camberwell Grammar Mooroolbark , Old Melburnians Beaumaris									
Old Scotch	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		Old Scotch	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T	
Monash University	11	6	4	1	21	7	22			Old Melburnians	11	6	4	1	21	7	22		
Warragul Utd	11	6	2	3	29	19	20			Monash University	11	7	0	4	23	13	21		
Dandenong Sparrows	10	4	4	2	27	14	16			Doveton	11	5	4	2	22	19	19		
Doveton	11	5	1	5	25	23	16			Monbulk	11	5	2	4	15	14	17		
Mooroolbark	11	4	4	3	16	15	16			Mooroolbark	10	5	1	4	20	12	16		
Sandringham City	10	4	3	3	23	16	15			Old Camberwell Grammar	10	4	2	4	12	12	14		
Old Melburnians	11	4	3	4	19	24	15			Boroondara Eagles	11	4	2	5	24	26	14		
Old Camberwell Grammar	10	3	4	3	18	17	13			Sandringham City	11	3	3	5	21	21	12		
Monbulk	10	4	1	5	16	25	13			Beaumaris	10	3	3	4	21	22	12		
Beaumaris	11	2	4	5	18	24	10			Dandenong Sparrows	11	3	3	5	22	31	12		
Boroondara Eagles	10	2	3	5	8	24	9			Old Scotch	11	3	2	6	9	20	11		
	10	1	3	6	10	22	6			Warragul Utd	11	1	4	6	17	27	7		

Dallas Brooks Park

North Caulfield v Nunawading City FC

Caulfield Park Sun 4 Jul KO 3:00PM

Kingston City v Springvale City

The Grange Reserve Mon 5 Jul KO 8:30PM

Provi NW 1

Avondale Heights v South Yarra

Doyle Street Reserve

Corio v North Sunshine Eagles

Hume Reserve, Geelong North

Elwood City v Westvale

Elwood Park

Laverton Park SC v FC Strathmore

Laverton Park Reserve

Melbourne City v Northern Falcons

Edwards Reserve

North City Lions v Whittlesea Utd

Wallace Reserve

Provi SE 1

Boroondara Eagles v Monbulk

Macleay Park

[illegible]

Senior

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Brimbank Stallions 2 (S Tapia G Tenaglia) Balmoral 2 (N Kalkan A Ibrahim), Darebin Utd 2 (A Dogan J Nikolarakos) Meadow Park Eagles 0, Mill Park 2 (J Vlahos J Patrikakos) Bundoora Utd 3 (S Kocdeviren 2 C Simjanoski), Watsonia Heights 3 Upfield 0, Brunswick Zebras 0 Youth Utd 0, Northern Roosters 3 (M Yeleser R Yildiz a uguz) Keilor Wolves 1 (F Minoski)

Brimbank Stallions 1 Balmoral 2, Darebin Utd 3 Meadow Park Eagles 2, Mill Park 2 Bundoora Utd 1, Watsonia Heights 3 Upfield 2, Brunswick Zebras 1 Youth Utd 3, Northern Roosters 0 Keilor Wolves 0

Seniors

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

East Bentleigh 1 (JR Roughton) White Star Dandenong 2 (MA Goralczyk T Bednarski), Manningham 4 (S Dimitriovski R Ferraro R Rositano 2) Noble Park 2 (F Korkaric G Banabakis), Essendon Royals 0 Seaford Utd 2 (A Halikias M Curd), Rowville Eagles, Old Trinity Grammarians, Glen Waverley Keysborough, Eltham Redbacks 1 (M medhi) Brighton 3 (A Greatorex M Chai N McGinnity)

Eltham Redbacks Brighton Seaford Utd Rowville Eagles Keysborough White Star Dandenong Old Trinity Grammarians Noble Park Essendon Royals Glen Waverley East Bentleigh Manningham

Hollow Reserve

Ashburton v Endeavour Utd

Ashburton Park

Berwick Kings v Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC

Betula Park

Cauffield Cobras v Bayside Argonauts

Victory Park

Lyndale Utd v Whitehorse Utd

Lyndale Secondary College

Old Brighton Grammarians v Old Carey

Dendy Park

Provi NW 3

Brimbank Stallions v Upfield

Club Italia Sporting Club

Darebin Utd v Mill Park

Mayer Park

Meadow Park Eagles v Balmoral

Gladstone Park Reserve

Watsonia Heights v Keilor Wolves

Gabonia Reserve

Brunswick Zebras v Bundoora Utd

Sumner Park

Northern Roosters v Youth Utd

Gibb Reserve

Only Sport, 450 Queen Street, Melbourne Tel: 9326 4100

State NW 2
Altona City v Williamstown
HC Kim Reserve
Altona East Phoenix v Werribee City
Paisley Park
Banyule City v Brunswick City
Yallambie Park Reserve
Geelong Rangers v Whittlesea Ranges
Myers Reserve
Moreland City v Ballarat Red Devils
Campbell Reserve
Sydenham Park v Port Melbourne
Keilor Lodge Reserve

State SE 2
Doncaster Rovers v Diamond Valley Utd
Anderson Park Fri 2 Jul KO 8:30PM
Frankston Pines v Casey Comets
Monterey Reserve
Berwick City v Knox City
Jack Thomas Reserve
Dandenong City v Heatherton Utd
Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve
Southern Stars v Southern Suburbs
Ross Reserve
Eastern Lions v Morwell Pegasus
Gardiners Creek Reseerve

State NW 3
Cairnlea v Sunbury Utd
Cairnlea Park
Hume Utd v La Trobe University
Laura Douglas Reserve
Lalor v Geelong
RGC Cook Reserve
Melb University Rangers SC v Keilor Park
Princes Park (Parkville)
Essendon Utd v Yarraville Glory
Aberfeldie Park
Westgate v Maribyrnong Greens
Ardeer Reserve Sat 3 Jul KO 7:00PM

State SE 3
Croydon City Arrows v Peninsula Strikers
Dorset Recreational Reserve Fri 2 Jul KO 8:30PM
Noble Park Utd v Fitzroy City
Parkfield Reserve
Waverley Wanderers v Brandon Park
Carlson Ave Reserve
Mornington v South Springvale
Dallas Brooks Park
North Caulfield v Nunawading City FC
Caulfield Park Sun 4 Jul KO 3:00PM
Kingston City v Springvale City
The Grange Reserve Mon 5 Jul KO 8:30PM

Provi NW 1
Avondale Heights v South Yarra
Doyle Street Reserve
Corio v North Sunshine Eagles
Hume Reserve, Geelong North
Elwood City v Westvale
Elwood Park
Laverton Park SC v FC Strathmore
Laverton Park Reserve
Melbourne City v Northern Falcons
Edwards Reserve
North City Lions v Whittlesea Utd
Wallace Reserve

Provi SE 1
Boroondara Eagles v Monbulk
Macleay Park
Dandenong Sparrows v Beaumaris
Fotheringham Reserve
Monash University v Doveton
Monash Uni Sports Oval
Old Camberwell Grammar v Old Scotch
Deepdene Park
Old Melburnians v Warragul Utd
Robert Menzies Reserve
Sandringham City v Mooroolbark
RJ Sillitoe Reserve

Provi NW 2
Collingwood City v Moreland Utd
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Hoppers Crossing v Melton
Grange Reserve
Melbourne Tornado v Epping City
Newmarket Reserve
Plenty Valley Lions v Lalor Utd
Sycamore Reserve
West Preston v Surf Coast
Oulton Reserve
Western Eagles v Bell Park
Polish Sports & Recreational Centre

Provi SE 2
Riversdale v Skye Utd Frog
Hollow Reserve
Ashburton v Endeavour Utd
Ashburton Park
Berwick Kings v Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC
Betula Park
Caulfield Cobras v Bayside Argonauts
Victory Park
Lyndale Utd v Whitehorse Utd
Lyndale Secondary College
Old Brighton Grammarians v Old Carey
Dendy Park

Provi NW 3
Brimbank Stallions v Upfield
Club Italia Sporting Club
Darebin Utd v Mill Park
Mayer Park
Meadow Park Eagles v Balmoral
Gladstone Park Reserve
Watsonia Heights v Keilor Wolves
Gabonia Reserve
Brunswick Zebras v Bundoora Utd
Sumner Park
Northern Roosters v Youth Utd
Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 3
East Bentleigh v Seaford Utd
Bailey Reserve
Manningham v White Star Dandenong
Timber Ridge Reserve
Essendon Royals v Old Trinity Grammarians
Ormond Park
Keelsborough v Brighton
Coomoora Reserve
Glen Waverley FC v Rowville Eagles
Larpent Reserve
Eltham Redbacks v Noble Park Eltham
North Reserve Sat 3 Jul KO 7:00PM





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Round 9

PREMIERSHIP



Call To Arms Round Nine Review

By Adam Hussein

Futsal Oz hosted their first large scale charitable event in conjunction with the cancer council this round, in a bid to raise money for cancer under the ‘call to arms’ banner, www.calltoarms.com.au . With a barbecue brewing, fans flocking to watch and players frothing to play lets see how the night unfolded!

FC Carlton 3 - 16 Brimbank FC
Round nine got underway in amazing fashion with Brimbank finally bearing fruit of fantastic performances in previous weeks thumping FC Carlton in a ruthless display that leaves daylight between Carlton and the other 11 V-League teams. It was remarkable given Brimbank lay in 11th position going into the clash after just losing out to Ashburton & North Melbourne in recent weeks. This match was just as much about Brimbank’s stellar performance (passing the ball eloquently with ease) as it was the complete capitulation of Carlton (defensively & in general play). Rudi Prosic displayed some quite erratic goalkeeping coming off his line and throwing the ball to himself trying to get the Carlton ball rolling but to little avail other than a series of embarrassing calamities. Vadim ‘maestro’ Mazursky took the chance to boost his goal scoring tally stocks with no less than seven goals in a game that wont live long in the memory for either side.

Ashburton FC 9 - 8 FC Essendon
Ashburton & Essendon set the tone for the night with a series of close battles and encounters. The green machine had coach Paul Vidic back on the bench, and ex-Fitzroy V-League superstar James Blackburn up front for the occasion. This would’ve been unexpected for Essendon who have been on the blunt end of some fine Blackburn performances. Essendon looked light on numbers after Filipovic’s controversial walk out the previous week and were in real danger of a big loss. But it’s a rare sight to see the 2009 champions go down without a fight and for all of Ashburtons early dominance, Essendon were not far behind on the scoreboard. It was a game that ebbed and flowed with goals coming in twos & threes for both sides. Ashburton were largely in control but had trouble maintaining Alexander Stevanovic (3 time leading goal kicker) up front who can prove to be quite a handful A memorable highlight included Chris Vithoukas striking a long range pile driver off the post, followed by a carbon copy shot by brother Dimitri Vithoukas with the same result. Ashburton pushed on, the class of Azzam, Blackburn & Bessa too good in the end. Ashburton rise high up to third in the V-League ladder, Essendon are at the tip of relegation territory.

Fitzroy FC 4 – 2 North Melbourne FC
Match of the Round
Futsal Juggernaut North Melbourne had been first for two weeks and found their po-

sition vulnerable to a young hungry Fitzroy side. North meant business and contrary to rumors that Fernando might not play, he was kitted up alongside usual suspects Waterfield, Mu, Barrientos, Melo & surprise appearance of England national futsal team representative Kyle Joryeff . Fitzroy had a surprise inclusion of their own, dual V-League premiership champion Tansel Baser. The ball was in constant motion for the opening few minutes with both sides peppering each others goal. Fitzroy drew first blood with a well worked move that caught North napping early. The goal did the world of good for Fitzroy who settled and began to play with a bit more confidence. Fitzroy goal scoring machine Minopolous who was hampered by illness found the back of the net with an angled header sneaking in behind Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh last years finest keeper. This ruffled North Melbourne’s feathers and kick started them into action. Fernando began dictated terms from deep within his own half and after a large spell of sustained pressure North scored through Barrientos who slotted between Klonis’s (FFC GK) legs. Half time couldn’t have come better for Fitzroy as they visibly began to tire defending so resolutely. Soon in the second half a swift Fitzroy counter attack was toe poked home by Adam Hussein in devastating fashion. Fitzroy had a small buffer to bargain with but it just encouraged North to try & try again. Klonis pulled off several good saves until conceding to Melo; Fitzroy went into the final stages of the game 4-2 up with 5 fouls. One foul would’ve sent North to the penalty spot and could’ve changed the game but Fitzroy had evidently matured and went on to seal a memorable three points against all odds.

Metropolitan FC 9 - 7 Pascoe Vale
Match of the round was followed on by another close contender with 3rd placed champions Pascoe Vale taking on 4th placed Cup runners up Metropolitan in a replay of the 2010 Souvlaki Hut Cup final. Metropolitan had a point to prove and had waited 12 long weeks for this rematch. Pascoe Vale were without 5 members of the championship winning side but still had enough quality to win the game. Team news saw Metro welcome back Ricardo Castro with Zilic unavailable, Pascoe Vale had brazilian professional Andre Caro alongside recently transferred Haider Noor but were finally without Ernie Simsek who’d been speaking about study related departure for weeks. It’s the aforementioned that Pascoe Vale missed the most with a costly lazy defensive nature saw Metropolitan pile on the pressure and the goals in the opening stages. Castro and Ikanovic were fantastic for Metropolitan and gave Palmeri a nightmare in Pascoe Vale goals. Haider impressed on debut with a largely energetic prove-himself performance that he is so accustomed too after changing teams. Marcus Barbosa worked tirelessly for Vale rolling the ball over swiftly trying to create several openings. Spijodic & Caro misplaced numerous passes and goal scor-



English futsal international Kyle Joryeff & Futsalroo Fernando De Moraes take on young guns Minopoulos & Hussein

ing opportunities leaving the champs short. Metropolitan look a formidable outfit when they are in the mood and have bounced back after losing to Fitzroy last week. The champions suffer another set back in their quest for back to back titles.

FC Prahran 5 - 4 Albert Park FC
The night was winding down but the action continued to unfold at 407 Victoria Street Brunswick. Giantkillers FC Prahran faced the tough task of beating their hoodoo of losing to bottom half sides and Albert Park to get back to winning ways. They fought hard to secure a 3-0 lead as both sides were caught in a midfield battle that saw the ball lost after 2-3 completed passes in a possession giveaway at half court. Maxim ‘Triple M’ Avram was his silky self prodding and probing the workman like Albert Park side. Zoran Matic had seen enough and came on just before half time to spark a small come back with Albert Park scoring twice in quick succession. The return of Ignat Filipovic to Matic’s side will add strength and guile to a side that has much of the same in terms of players except for V-League stalwart John Verikakis who added width and depth on the left hand side. Albert Park went 4-3 up after both sides went close on several occasions. Zoran Matic missed a close range penalty after Henry Fernandez (ABFC) was brought down in the area. Followed by a small succession of Albert Park half chances. Brendan Chen (ABFC GK) made a fantastic save to deny Pavouris (FCP) but the resulting corner was dreadfully defended and Prahran slotted home 4-4. The stage was set for suspended Ahmed Muktar’s cousin& replacement Mohamed Ahmed who had played well all game to hit a pidgeon hole scorcher through a sea of legs and traffic that eluded Brendan Chen and won all three points for FC Prahran with Albert Park left ruing missed chances.

Mickleham FC 4 – 5 Hume FC
Hume showed the strength, finesse & clinical finishing required to play in the V-League and proved their State League Championship was more then just luck by dismantling an unlucky Mickleham side. Both sides were closer to full strength then they were the previous week. Hume was missing Michael William Dixon a fantastic contributor the previous fortnight. Hume pushed the champions all the way last week and carried on where they had left off. Bozdogan was in fine form scoring a hat-trick and celebrating with style as a small group of friends had hung around all night to watch him play. Nabil (HFC) went close on numerous encounters with Apostolakis the Mickleham goalkeeper for little reward. Filipovic, Marusic & Petrovski played well but not well enough as they offered little in the attacking third and struggled to beat Jesse

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 Fitzroy FC	9	7	1	1	48	35	13	22		
2 Nth Melbourne FC	9	6	1	2	50	31	19	19		
3 Ashburton FC	9	6	0	3	53	46	7	18		
4 Metropolitan FC	9	5	2	2	74	56	18	17		
5 Pascoe Vale FC	9	5	1	3	54	43	11	16		
6 Hume FC	9	5	0	4	44	39	5	15		
7 FC Prahran	9	4	1	4	42	44	-3	13		
8 Mickleham FC	9	3	1	5	38	45	-7	10		
9 FC Essendon	9	2	3	4	42	45	-3	9		
10 Brimbank FC	9	2	2	5	50	45	5	8		
11 Albert Park FC	9	2	0	7	40	51	-11	6		
12 FC Carlton	9	1	0	8	26	81	-55	3		

Round 9 Results June 23										
•6:30 Brimbank FC v FC Carlton 16 - 3										
•7:15 Ashburton FC v FC Essendon 9 - 8										
•8:00 Nth Melbourne FC v Fitzroy FC 2 - 4										
•8:45 Metropolitan FC v Pascoe Vale FC 9 - 7										
•9:30 Albert Park FC v FC Prahran 4 - 5										
•10:15 Mickleham FC v Hume FC 4 - 5										

Round 10 Clashes June 30										
•6:30 Ashburton FC v Fitzroy FC										
•7:15 Mickleham FC v Pascoe Vale FC										
•8:00 Nth Melbourne FC v Metropolitan FC										
•8:45 Brimbank FC v FC Prahran										
•9:30 FC Carlton v FC Essendon										
•10:15 Albert Park FC v Hume FC										

Top Scorers										
1.V.Mazurskiy BFC 24 goals										
2.A.Stevanovic FCE 20 goals										
3.A.Redzepovic MFC 18 goals										
4.L.Minopoulos FFC 18 goals										

Goodwin (HFC GK) who was in fine form. He made a series of unorthodox saves but managed to keep the ball out of the goal in spectacular fashion much to the Mickleham bench’s dissatisfaction. Both sides played a nice free flowing attacking style but didn’t capitalize enough on 2 v 1 situations that will hurt them in future V-League games. Hume find themselves comfortable in mid-table with Mickleham not so cosy in drop zone territory.

PHOTOS BY
Franco Lucchetti, Nick Chippas


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Gully to the fore!

By Markian Jaworsky

In a match packed full of talking points, for Green Gully supporters the news is good. Joshua Groenewald scored a hatrick in a 4-1 win over Altona Magic, with other fixtures still to play, the win propels the Cavaliers temporarily in third position on the VPL standings.

For Altona Magic the news is bad, very bad. The Magic are now rooted to the bottom of the VPL standings, and odds on favourites for relegation to Division One in 2011. For the match referee who was involved in an accidental clash of heads at the 68th minute mark of the match, on behalf of the Green Gully Soccer Club, we wish you a speedy and healthy recovery from this unfortunate incident.

The Cavaliers made one notable change to their starting lineup, in came the previously impressive substitute Jason Hayne up forward. Within minutes of the kick-off Hayne was causing trouble for the Magic defense, and could have had a goal to his name if he had managed a strike on goal in the first available opportunity. Though Jason didn't have to wait too long, just 20 minutes later he setup Joshua Groenewald for the first goal of the match, before getting his own name of the scoring sheet on the half hour mark.

Just as Gully threatened to run away with the match, Altona's John Thornley scrambled a loose ball in the Gully penalty area over the line for a goal to the home team, before Gully's captain Jeffrey Fleming was sent off for a straight red card, in what was deemed an excessively dangerous slide tackle. Altona were back in the game.

In the second half, one would have assumed that Gully would have closed shop and kept an eye on the clock, but it was not the case.

The visitors, down a player, actually



Josh Groenewald hits the mark on one of three occasions against Altona Magic on Saturday night.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

looked the better team from the second half kick-off knocking the ball around impressively in terrible conditions. Just as the heavens opened up and down came the rain, so too did the goals. On 68 minutes, Altona Magic's number #8 (not listed on the team sheet) was sent off ironically for the second yellow card. From the resulting Graham Hockless freekick, Joshua Groenewald scored his second goal of the game, before securing a hatrick in the 79th minute, as Altona's goalkeeper Andrew Sfetcopoulos struggled to handle the waterlogged ball.

In the 70th minute, Andy Vargas and the match referee accidentally and unfortunately clashed heads, and the match referee had to be taken away to hospital by ambulance. A match linesman had to take over to seeout the final 22 minutes of play.

Speaking in an interview after match, Gully's Joshua Groenewald claimed his first hatrick in senior football, but was unsure if the referee would credit him the third goal, or write it down as an goalkeeper fumbled own goal. Joshua also praised his striking partner on the

day Jason Hayne. Coach Paul Harris was happy with Jason's Hayne's performance, and when asked if Jason could expect to be a permanent fixture in the starting lineup, Paul wisely responded "Let's just take it one week at a time"...

In the Under 21's, the Green Gully Cavaliers hung on in the final minutes for a 2-1 victory. Reminder that the Saturday July 10th edition of the Green Gully Show on Channel 31 (44 on digital) will feature the Green Gully Under 21's v South Melbourne U21's.

ALTONA MAGIC

1

GREEN GULLY

4

Match Details:

Green Gully:

N.Roganovic, S.Burton, M.Medjedovic, D.Jones, R.Ollerton, J.Fleming, J.Hayne(M.Sanders), J.Groenewald(N.Robinson), G.Hockless, J.Munoz, A.Vargas(T.Gould).

Altona Magic:

A.Sfetcopoulos, D.Mladenovic(D.Radojicic), K.Delev, P.Siveski, G.Papadopoulos(M.Theodore), P.Cergovski, J.Docevski, J.Thornley, S.Bozinovski, S.Kovacevic, G.Talevski

Crowd: 500

Green Gully: 4

Goals: J.Hayne '31, J.Groenewald '22, '68, '79 Yellow Cards: S.Burton '20, J.Munoz '80 Red Cards: J.Fleming '42

Altona Magic: 1

Goals: J.Thornley '39 Yellow Cards: P.Siveski '65, S.Bozinovski '85 Red Cards: (Number 8 not listed on team sheet) '68

Man of the Match:

Joshua Groenewald (Gully)



Jason Haynes gets the hugs after notching Gully's second. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Gully's Graham Hockless attempts to get a cross in under pressure PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

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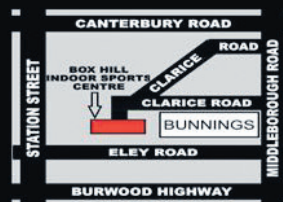


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SUNSHINE GEORGIES



HUME CITY

Squad lists:

Sunshine George Cross

1

Martin JOHN

6

Shaun ROMEIN

7

Matthew CINI

8

Fidell RICHARDS

10

Ahmet TURER

15

Andrew NABBOUT

17

Craig SWEENEY

19

Gavin HURREN

21

Christos KONSTAS

22

Marco ROSANO

23

Daniel SWEENEY

24

Douglas CAMERON

27

Ben COGGER

28

Julian BUZZANCA

29

Taxiarhis APOSTOLIKAS

31

Andrew BOURAKIS

32

Barry DEVLIN

35

Tyrone DEMETRIOU

37

David CALLEJA

38

Luke GROUNDS

36

James BLACKBURN

47

Antoni PECORA

49

Cameron SALIK

Trent WATERSON

Dion PORTELLI

Evan CHRISTODOULOU

Hume City

1

Lupce ACEVSKI

2

Mehmet KARAKILIC

3

Fabio DILIZIA

4

Aziz BEHICH

5

Steven PACE

6

Serdar PIR

7

Isiyan ERDOGAN

8

Alfonso OPAZO

9

Turhan SUMBUL

10

Richard CARDOZO

11

Andy VLAHOS

12

Ross THOMPSON

13

Marijo ROZA

14

Goran TALEVSKI

15

Zoran PETREVSKI

16

Tansel BASER

18

Ersin KAYA

19

Dusko DELIC

20

Michael BOSEVSKI

21

Jake NAKIC

22

Phillip RICCOBENE

32

Sam DEHAINI

35

Ali CATAK

Christopher AILAKIS

Georgies await Hume showdown

By Gordon Bennett

The final game of round 16 at the Knights Stadium pitches together two sides who are eager to return to the winners list.

Neither side has tasted victory for quite some time with Hume's last win coming in round 10, when Andy Vlahos' side beat Bentleigh Greens 5-1.

Three draws and 2 defeats that have followed has disappointed Hume City fans after making such a bright start to the season. It's take two for

Hume, as they return to the scene that ended in disaster last week, hoping to make emends this time against the Georgies.

The longing for a win for Sunshine George Cross has never been greater, as the Georgies have now slumped to second last place, after at one stage reaching 4th place. Five successive defeats is relegtion form and the loss of form can be attributed to the departures of strikers Kyle Joryeff and Stuart Nicholson. Both these players contributed vital match winning goals and since parting company, the Georgies forward line has been firing

blanks. Both sides go into this match undermanned with Hume City having goalkeeper Lupce Acevski, Ross Thompson and Isiyan Erdogan suspended after being sent off in the last round against Melbourne Knights.

The Georgies are still missing youngster Evan Christodoulou and most likely will also be without English import Gavin Hurren who limped off against Bentleigh Greens last week.

Sunshine displayed a lot of endeavour in that game but came away with nothing to show for their effort. Coach Theo Constantinou was disa-


pointed with the result but was encouraged by the fact that good goal scoring chances were created.

He will be looking for a similar performance against Hume with a few the goals as well. Andy Vlahos will introduce a few experienced players to cover the losses of the suspended players hoping to get back the team back to winning ways.


It should be a no holds bar contest as both sides slog it out for the all important 3 points. The under 21 kick off at 6.15pm and the senior match at 8.15pm.




Flashback to Round 5 when Hume defeated George Cross 3-2. Michael Sacks (George Cross) takes a tumble following a heading duel with Zoran Petrevski (right). Chris Konstas is also in the tangle. PHOTO:JOHN PUNSHON




VPL Standings Round 16




	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond Eagles	16	9	2	5	24	20	29
Oakleigh Cannons	15	8	3	4	24	18	27
Green Gully Cavaliers	16	7	2	7	22	18	23
Hume City	15	7	4	4	26	22	22
Dandenong Thunder	16	7	3	6	18	22	21
Northcote City	15	6	2	7	28	23	20
Bentleigh Greens	14	5	3	6	17	24	18
South Melbourne	15	6	4	5	26	21	16
Melbourne Knights	16	5	4	7	21	23	16
Heidelberg Utd	14	4	6	4	24	25	15
Sunshine George Cross	15	4	3	8	15	27	15
Altona Magic	15	3	4	8	28	30	13




VPL Round 17



N.T.C v Heidelberg Utd	
Olympic Village	
Wed 7 Jul KO 8:30PM	
Northcote City v Sunshine George Cross	Hume City v Richmond Eagles
John Cain Memorial Park	Broadmeadows Valley Park
Sat 10 Jul KO 3:00PM	Sun 11 Jul KO 3:00PM
Green Gully Cavaliers v Bentleigh Greens	Melbourne Knights v Oakleigh Cannons
Green Gully Reserve	Knights Stadium
Sat 10 Jul KO 3:00PM	Sun 11 Jul KO 3:00PM
Dandenong Thunder v Altona Magic	Heidelberg Utd v South Melbourne
George Andrews Reserve	Olympic Village
Sat 10 Jul KO 7:00PM	Sun 11 Jul KO 5:00PM



VPL Under 21s



South Melbourne	16	13	2	1	49	23	41
N.T.C	18	8	7	3	51	30	31
Richmond	16	9	2	5	33	23	29
Oakleigh Cannons	15	7	6	2	36	25	27
Northcote City	17	6	5	6	42	38	23
Heidelberg Utd	15	8	1	6	26	22	22
Green Gully Cavaliers	18	6	4	8	27	44	22
Hume City	15	7	3	5	37	27	21
Bentleigh Greens	16	7	0	9	27	32	21
Altona Magic	17	5	4	8	22	30	19
Sunshine George Cross	16	4	1	11	24	45	13
Melbourne Knights	16	4	2	10	22	33	11
Dandenong Thunder	15	1	3	11	16	40	6
Bentleigh Greens							
Northcote City							
Richmond							
Melbourne Knights							
Altona Magic 1							
Green Gully Cavaliers 2							
South Melbourne							
Dandenong Thunder							

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Premiership in sight for in-form Bonnyrigg

By Mike Salter

The Bonnyrigg White Eagles took a huge step towards the NSW Premiership with a 2-0 win at home over their close rivals Blacktown City. Details of the game can be found below; with Bonnyrigg's closest challengers having to settle for draws, the men from the Serbian Centre are now five points clear at the summit.

Marconi and Sydney United, in equal second place, each drew 2-2 on Saturday evening. Sutherland played host to Sydney United at Seymour Shaw, and although United went in front twice, Sutherland secured a share of the points with an 84th-minute strike from Chris Price, who has been one of the players of the season.

Marconi had to come from behind themselves against Bankstown City at Bossley Park; club captain Nahuel Arrarte had put Marconi in front just before half-time, but goals from Robbie Mileski and Hussein Akil put Bankstown in the driving seat before Mitchell Mallia levelled things up for last season's finalists.

In Sunday's games, APIA-Leichhardt snatched a share of fifth place by defeating Sydney Olympic, now on their third coach of the season, 2-0 at Belmore, both goals coming from former Adelaide United striker Robert Younis. The West Sydney Berries and Rockdale City drew 1-1 in an entertaining game, and Manly United produced their performance of the season with a 5-2 away win over the South Coast Wolves. The scores were level at the break, and a Manly second on 47 minutes was cancelled out by Jason Trifiro only a minute later, but the away side went on the rampage for the rest of the second half, resulting in their highest winning margin of the season.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2-0 Blacktown City

They left it late, but Bonnyrigg's crack troops claimed yet another high-profile scalp on Saturday night, seeing off close title rivals Blacktown.

The game began in cagey fashion, with neither side prepare to take many risks in such a pivotal encounter. Set-pieces were clearly going to be crucial in deciding the outcome, with Bonnyrigg's trump card Daniel Severino sending a tempting free kick just wide of the target on 21 minutes.

The game continued to be barren of chances until former Melbourne Victory striker Nathan Elasi created a half-chance for himself just before the interval; a lunging interception from Zac Cairncross thwarted the danger.

The spectators would have been disappointed heading for the steak sandwiches at half-time, but the game developed a greater intensity in the second period, with Blacktown's front duo of Luke Roodenburg and Tolgay Ozbey looking as menacing as they did when leading the Demons to the title in 2007.

Nevertheless, it was Bonnyrigg who created the first clear-cut chance of the half, when Shane Webb surged through midfield and played in the prolific Brad



FNSW weekend action as Manly hit five against South Coast Wolves.
PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/COURTESY FNSW



FNSW weekend action as APIA's Robert Younis celebrates his brace against Sydney Olympic.
PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/COURTESY FNSW

Boardman on the edge of the Blacktown area; failing to bring the ball properly under control, Boardman was unable to put enough power behind his eventual shot.

A minute later Boardman turned provider, pushing the ball aside for Severino to let fly with his formidable left foot. Matt Ryan in the Blacktown goal somehow managed to block the shot.

On 62 minutes, Blacktown's Luke Austin showed that Severino wasn't the only player on the park whose posed a threat from dead-ball situations, forcing

a fine save from Bonnyrigg's keeper Ali Akbal.

Ozbey's pace and movement off the ball had been troubling Bonnyrigg throughout the second half, and he made space for himself in the box on 77 minutes, but could not find the target.

Finally, in the 81st minute, the deadlock was broken. Jamie McMaster advanced down the right flank and crossed, and Elasi, who had been drifting in and out of the game, headed the ball smartly home.

Soon after Blacktown's combative


midfielder Kain Rastall had been dismissed for a second bookable offence, a rejuvenated Bonnyrigg doubled their lead in the 89th minute: Elasi this time laid the ball off for Boardman, racing into the area, and this season's NSWPL top scorer made no mistake from seven yards.

Bonnyrigg appear to be running away with the premiership, while Blacktown are still left with ground to make up on the top three.

NSW LADDER				
	P	W	L	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	11	5	38
Sydney United	18	9	6	33
Marconi Stallions	18	10	3	33
Blacktown City FC	18	9	4	31
Sutherland Sharks	18	8	3	27
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	18	8	3	27
Bankstown City	18	6	4	22
Rockdale City Suns	17	4	10	22
South Coast Wolves	18	4	4	16
Manly United FC	16	4	3	15
Sydney Olympic	18	4	3	15
West Sydney Berries	17	2	6	12

NSW RESULTS	
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 18: FIRST GRADE: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (N Elasi 82m Brad-ley Boardman 89m) Blacktown City FC 0,	
Sydney Olympic 0 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Robert Younis 59/66m),	
West Sydney Berries 1 (Dimitri Zakilas 83m) Rockdale City Suns 1 (Pece Apolevski 52m),	
South Coast Wolves 2 (Tayfun Buyukkopru 18m Jason Trifiro 48m) Manly United FC 5 (Scott Balderson 19m Adam Foti 47m Luke Casserly 56m Robert Cattanaach 84m Andrew Mailer 90m).	
Sutherland Sharks 2 (Jim Bakis 22m Christopher Price 84m) Sydney United 2 (Elsid Barkhousir 11m Mirijan Pavlovic 67m),	
Marconi Stallions 2 (Nahuel Arrarte 41m Mitchell Mallia 78m) Bankstown City 2 (Robert Mileski 60m H Akil 76m).	
GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Blacktown City FC 1, Sutherland Sharks 3 Sydney United 3, Marconi Stallions 2 Bankstown City 1.	
GRADE 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Blacktown City FC 1, Sutherland Sharks 3 Sydney United 0, Marconi Stallions 5 Bankstown City 2. RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 14: FIRST GRADE: Manly United FC 0 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Robert Younis 45/90m Pen). ROUND 15: GRADE 20: Manly United FC Rockdale City Suns Postponed.	
SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 15: FIRST GRADE: Central Coast Lightning Dulwich Hill Washed Out, St George FC 2 (D Cutura 20/63m) Sydney University 0. GRADE 20: Central Coast Lightning Dulwich Hill Washed Out, St George FC 3 Sydney University 0. RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 12: FIRST GRADE: Central Coast Lightning 1 (A Burrell 86m) FC Bossy Liverpool 0. GRADE 20: Central Coast Lightning 7 FC Bossy Liverpool 2.	
DIVISION ONE: ROUND 15: FIRST GRADE: Stanmore Hawks 3 (W Hijazi 39/52m E Squil-laciotti 68m) Hurstville ZFC 0, Schofield Scorpions 2 (N Cooper 20m L Boyd 83m) Gladesville Ryde Magic 1 (A McKie 71m), Mounties Wanderers 1 (D Willoughby 24m) Fairfield City Lions 1 (Y Ekinci 35m), Blacktown Spartans 3 (S Zahra 70m J Bugaid 80m T Macrae 91m) Inter Lions 3 (D Di Mento 28/52m D Arcella 30m), Hills Brumbies 2 (B Mitrovich 7/10m) Camden Tigers 1 (D Se-maan 92m).	
GRADE 20: Stanmore Hawks 1 Hurstville ZFC 3, Schofield Scorpions 4 Gladesville Ryde Magic 0, Mounties Wanderers 0 Fairfield City Lions 0, Blacktown Spartans 2 Inter Lions 2, Hills Brumbies 4 Camden Tigers 0.	
RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 11: FIRST GRADE: Inter Lions Balmain SC Washed Out. GRADE 20: Inter Lions Balmain SC Washed Out.	

NEXT ROUND	
Round 19	
3pm Sun 4/Jul Rockdale City Suns v Sth Coast Wolves	Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 4/Jul Manly Utd v B'rigg White Eagles	Cromer Park
3pm Sun 4/Jul Bankstown City v S'land Sharks	Jensen Park
3pm Sun 4/Jul APIA L'hardt Tigers v Syd Utd	Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 4/Jul Blacktown City v Marconi Stallions	Lily Homes
3pm Sun 4/Jul West Syd Berries v Syd Olympic	Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre



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AUSTRALIA



PHOTO: BRANDON FISHER/SMP IMAGES

The Socceroos line up before their third Group game against Serbia.
 Back Row: David Carney, Mark Schwarzer, Michael Beauchamp, Joshua Kennedy, Marco Bresciano, Brett Emerton.
 Front Row: Jason Culina, Tim Cahill, Lucas Neill (Captain), Carl Valeri, Luke Wilkshire.

Strikers in seventh heaven

By Jarrod Ellis

At the start of Round 14 of the Hyundai QSL on Saturday night two tiers of four teams was becoming clear and by the end of the night that gap had only been accentuated as all four teams at the top picked up points.

After not playing a match last week due to airline troubles for Capricorn Cougars, QAS travelled to Perry Park for a clash with Brisbane Strikers, a fixture that they won in dramatic fashion only a few weeks ago.

This time would be different for the young footballers however; as the Strikers doled out a 7-2 hiding that left no one in doubt as to who was the superior team. Matt Thurtell and Sean Burke were the chief architects of the heavy defeat for QAS, Thurtell bagging a brace and Burke a hat-trick as he continued his impressive recent run of form.

QAS opened the first half well but when they lost defender Neko Vujevich in the 23rd minute to a red card for pulling down Sean Burke as he raced through on goal. After a reshuffling of players the visitors managed to hold on for awhile thanks to some desperate defending, but the numerical advantage was beginning to tell and in the 35th minute QAS keeper Tim Anderson brought down Thurtell leaving referee Allan Milliner little choice but to point to the spot. Thurtell then coolly converted the first of the seven Brisbane goals that would arrive before the match was out.

QAS managed to hang on until the half but eight minutes after the restart they were 2-0 down when Brad McDonald played an excellent ball across the face of goal that left Thurtell with a simple tap in and the far post.

QAS briefly responded with a solo effort from captain Ken Dougall, who evaded a couple of tackles around the edge of the home team's penalty area to work the ball on to his left boot and fire in a low shot that was comfortably gathered in by Cody.

It was then that the floodgates opened as Burke scored his first goal with an excellent shot, followed five minutes later by substitute Matt Christensen who was left with a tap in after the QAS keeper made a mess of a high ball, letting it drop over his head onto the goal line.

Dougall pulled one back for the visitors in the 68th minute from the penalty spot but it was never going to be enough as Burke scored two more simple but well taken goals within the next fourteen minutes. McDonald got in on the act as well in the 84th minute before Alistair Quinn scored another consolation goal for a well beaten QAS side right at the end of regulation.

In stark contrast to the scenes at Perry Park there must be growing concern at Stockland Park that the Fire have peaked too early after the team dropped points for the second week running, this time against league cellar dwellers



Jo Rusch (Bulls Midfielder) in action against the Whitsunday Miner during the corresponding clash earlier in the season. PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN



Sunshine Coast's Tyson Holmes, seen here collecting an award earlier in the season, scored against the Bundaberg Spirit to maintain a 10-point lead at the top of the QSL standings. PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL

Bundaberg Spirit.

Sunshine Coast got off to the better start when Tyson Holmes added another goal to his season tally in the 10th minute of the match. However the lead would only last for nine minutes before Brett Kitching would score the first of a

first half double for the Bundaberg midfielder as the Spirit took an unexpected lead and held on til the second half.

It wasn't until the 69th minute of the match that Sunshine Coast was able to draw level courtesy of a strike from Chris Bacon. With the natural order of

things seemingly restored the Fire went about searching for a winner.

Ryan Delahunty looked like he had secured the points for the visitors when he put them 3-2 ahead in the 81st minute but it wasn't to be for Sunshine Coast. Adam Ormsby would be the hero of the

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast	14	12	1	1	41	20	21	37
2 Brisbane Strikers	14	8	3	3	37	15	22	27
3 NQ Razorbacks	14	8	2	4	26	14	12	26
4 FNQ Bulls	14	7	1	6	31	29	2	22
5 QAS	12	4	1	7	26	34	-8	13
6 Whitsunday Miners	13	3	3	7	20	26	-6	12
7 Capricorn Cougars	13	3	2	8	14	26	-12	11
8 Bundaberg Spirit	14	1	3	10	16	47	-31	6

RESULTS

Bundaberg Spirit 3 (Kitching 19,29, Ormsby 82) v Sunshine Coast FC 3 (Holmes 10, Bacon 69, Delahunty 81)

Brisbane Strikers 7 (Thurtell 34,53, Burke 59,74,82, Christiansen 64, MacDonald 84) v Qld Academy Sport 2 (Dougall 68, Quinn 89)

Whitsunday Miners 0 v FNQ Bulls 1 (DeNittis 89)

NQ Razorbacks 2 (Robinson 46, Edwards 51) v Capricorn Cougars 0

NEXT ROUND

ROUND 15

Brisbane Strikers v Capricorn Cougars Sat 3 July 7:00pm

Bundaberg Spirit v NQ Razorbacks Sat 3 July 7:00pm

Whitsunday Miners v QAS Sat 3 July 7:30pm

Sunshine Coast FC v FNQ Bulls Sun 4 July 2:30pm

match as only a minute later he dragged the Spirit level and that's how it stayed, a remarkable result for the QSL whipping boys who are beginning to look a much different proposition in recent weeks.

Elsewhere around the league there weren't any surprises as FNQ Bulls and NQ Razorbacks consolidated their positions on the table with wins against lower placed opposition.

The Bulls will admittedly have been relieved to leave Mackay with all three points though after it took them until the 89th minute to score in their 1-0 win over Whitsunday Miners. Josh Denittis was the man who secured the points for the Bulls as they struggled to overcome a well organised and resilient Miners side.

NQ Razorbacks had a far less troublesome time dispatching Capricorn Cougars at Brolga Park. Mitchell Robinson and Robin Edwards got their names onto the scoresheet as the Razorbacks cruised to a 2-0 victory in a match that had the potential to cause an upset if the Townsville side were overconfident after becoming the first side to defeat Sunshine Coast last weekend.

Defeat for the Cougars leaves them further adrift of a finals place and until the team can find their goal scoring touch it's unlikely that they'll threaten to make any kind of move up the table.



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Late winner sees back-to-back Woden wins

By Russ Gibbs

Woden Valley moved off the bottom of the Gatorade Premier League with a 2-1 victory over Goulburn Strikers at Hawker Football Centre thanks to an 87th minute winner from youngster Kehnan Walsh.

Walsh struck for the second successive match to give Woden back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time this season. The match had been switched to the neutral venue after Woden's Woden Park ground fell foul to the elements and the change of venue seemed to help the pseudo-home team more as Woden played some excellent football in the first-half.

After surviving some early scares when Strikers hit-man Brody Willis went close to breaking the deadlock on three occasions, the Valley boys took the lead in the 37th minute with a fine goal. Some neat build up play resulted in Kole Aitken collecting the ball inside the penalty area where he cut inside and composed himself before firing a low drive past Strikers stand-in 'keeper Brian Roberts from fourteen metres.

Roberts, who was playing his second full ninety minutes of the day after earlier playing for the club's Premier Pathway League team, was called into action again when Simon Hinde shot towards goal but the finish lacked the conviction required to best the Goulburn shot-stopper.

After the interval the Strikers, missing several first choice players through unavailability and suspension, came more to the fore and equalised in the 70th minute via a Sam Taylor shot from the edge of the penalty area that took a large deflection off the back of Woden skipper Cameron Gordon.

Both teams went close to claiming a winner before Walsh struck three minutes from time, squeezing the ball home from a tight angle, a la Uruguayan Luis Suarez to win all three points for his team.

Elsewhere Belconnen United were held to a 1-1 draw by Canberra Olympic at McKellar Park in the late afternoon kick off on Sunday. Belconnen have dropped further behind league leaders Canberra FC after the stalemate with Dustin Wells strike in the first half being cancelled out by a Trent Flanigan leveller for an under-fire Olympic team.

As with Woden and Goulburn both teams had chances to win the match with Belconnen having more but Olympic nearly stealing it at the death when Domenic Giampaolo saw a close range chance go begging.

Champions Canberra FC consolidated top spot in the Gatorade Premier League with a 3-0 victory over Canberra City at Hawker Football Centre on Saturday evening. Goals from central defender Marcin Zygmunt and a brace from leading striker Michael Spaleta handed the reigning champions what appeared to be a convincing triumph on a cold Canberra evening. It took Stan Dukic's men until the 29th minute to break down a stubborn Canberra City defensive unit with former Canberra Olympic player Marcin Zygmunt claiming his first goal of the season to break the deadlock before two goals from Spaleta in the last seven minutes sealed the victory.

Tuggeranong United have slumped to the bottom of the table after a narrow 2-1



ACT weekend action from Woden Valley's 2-0 win over Goulburn Strikers

PHOTO: RUSS GIBBS

loss to Monaro Panthers at the Riverside Stadium. The Panthers took the lead inside the first five minutes with a goal from David Baillie before United equalised when Mark Shields stabbed home from close range barely seven minutes later.

United then shot themselves in the foot towards the end of the match, gifting Monaro the winning goal with a terrible mistake. Stand-in goalkeeper Tim Davies scuffed a routine goal kick straight to Panthers striker Nathan Walker who gleefully shot home the winning goal.

In the final match of the round Cooma Tigers continued their impressive recent form with a 3-1 win over ANU FC at ANU North Oval. The Tigers were in constant control over an ANU side that has been in freefall the last fortnight after a mid-season improvement. After a goal-less first half Goran Josifovski opened the scoring a minute into the second half, and when Ian Elliott made it 2-0 in the 58th minute, the points seemed secure.

However ANU FC fought back with a goal from Tim Womack to give them hope

of a point that was crushed three minutes later when Scott Barsley clinched the match with the third goal of the season to confirm the Tigers third place on the ladder.

WILKINS AT THE DOUBLE FOR FOXES

A brace of goals from the league's leading goal-scorer, Hope Wilkins, saw Belwest Foxes emerge as 4-2 winners over Belconnen United in a hugely entertaining match on Sunday afternoon.

Wilkins struck twice in the second half to seal the win in a match that lived up to its pre-match billing as one to watch. After Sam Price had given the Foxes the lead Belconnen levelled at the start of the second half through Katie Woodman. Wilkins put the home team back in front only for a Sabrina Spinapolice penalty to draw the Blue Devils level once again. Wilkins made it 3-2 to the Foxes before a long range strike from Tahlia Stanley sealed the points at 4-2.

Ashleigh Palombi also scored twice as Woden Valley defeated Tuggeranong United 3-1. Palombi was joined on the score sheet by Grace Field as Woden recovered from a 1-0 half-time deficit to win the match. Julie Ibarra had earlier given United the first-half advantage with her thirteenth goal of the season.

Emily Nicola of ANU WFC was the third player to score two goals on the weekend as her team won 4-1 against battling Brindabella Blues. The Blues were three down inside ten minutes with Cassie Schilg, Anna Bennett and Nicola scoring before Ellen Header pulled one back before the break. Nicola confirmed the result in the second half.

Finally, Weston Creek edged Canberra FC 2-1 in their match. Kylie Harris and an Aleisha Tupper penalty had given Weston a 2-0 lead at half-time before a late goal from Nicole Somi, the Canberra FC player scoring nine minutes from time, gave the visitors hope of a result but to no avail.

NEXT ROUND

- Round 11

Sat 10 Jul KO 3pm

Cooma Tigers v Canberra Olympic

Nijong Oval

Sun 11 Jul KO 3pm

Monaro Panthers v Goulburn Strikers

Riverside Stadium

Sun 11 Jul KO 3pm

Tuggeranong Utd v Canberra FC

Kambah 2-1

Sun 11 Jul KO 4pm

Belconnen Utd v Woden Valley

McKellar Park

Sun 11 Jul KO 4pm

Canberra City v ANU FC

Hawker Football Centre

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	10	7	3	0	36	6	+30	24
2 Belconnen United	10	6	2	2	26	15	+11	20
3 Cooma Tigers	10	5	3	2	19	11	+8	18
4 Monaro Panthers	10	5	1	4	15	17	-2	16
5 Canberra City	9	4	1	4	13	13	0	13
6 Canberra Olympic	10	3	3	4	10	13	-3	12
7 Goulburn Strikers	9	2	3	4	17	14	+3	9
8 ANU FC	10	3	0	7	11	32	-12	9
9 Woden Valley	10	3	0	7	11	26	-15	9
10 Tuggeranong United	10	2	2	6	12	31	-19	8

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	12	12	0	0	61	9	+52	36
2 Woden Valley	11	8	1	2	42	10	+32	24
3 Belconnen United	12	5	3	4	39	14	+25	18
4 Weston Creek	12	5	3	4	21	19	+2	18
5 Canberra FC	12	4	4	4	21	31	-11	16
6 Tuggeranong United	12	3	3	6	24	30	-6	12
7 ANU WFC	11	2	2	7	11	27	-16	8
8 Brindabella Blues	12	0	0	12	8	88	-80	0

ACT RESULTS

Woden Valley 2 (Kole Aitken 37', Kehnan Walsh 87') Goulburn Strikers 1 (Sam Taylor 70')

Monaro Panthers 2 (David Baillie 3', Nathan Walker 75') Tuggeranong United 1 (Mark Shields 10')

Belconnen United 1 (Dustin Wells) Canberra Olympic 1 (Trent Flanigan)

ANU FC 1 (Tim Womack 74') Cooma Tigers 3 (Goran Josifovski 46', Ian Elliott 58', Scott Barsley 77')

Canberra City 0 Canberra FC 3 (Marcin Zygmunt 29', Michael Spaleta 83' (pen), 90')

WPL

ANU FC 4 (Emily Nicola (2), Cassie Schilg, Anna Bennett) Brindabella Blues 1 (Ellen Header)

Tuggeranong United 1 (Julie Ibarra) Woden Valley 3 (Ashleigh Palombi (2), Grace Field)

Belwest Foxes 4 (Hope Wilkins (2), Sam Price, Tahlia Stanley) Belconnen United 2 (Katie Woodman, Sabrina Spinapolice (pen))

Weston Creek 2 (Kylie Harris 10', Aleisha Tupper 21' (pen)) Canberra FC 1 (Nicole Somi 81')

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MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Light Utd 2 (A Ozdemir E Secgin) Ascot Vale 1 (D Rodriguez), Northern Utd 1 (Z Naaman) Oak Park 5 (H Unal 2 ME Erdal 2 G Celtik), Tullamarine Jets 4 (I Aygun H Aksoy M Tankir Hazer) Heidelberg Stars 1 (S Gamadid), Moreland Wolves 6 (M Morlacci M Denezakis S Jones P Richman 3) Keon Park 0, Altona North 2 (S Guch D Byrnes) Yarra Jets 3, Reserves: Light Utd 1 Ascot Vale 0, Northern Utd 4 Oak Park 3, Tullamarine Jets 0 Heidelberg Stars 6, Moreland Wolves 11 Keon Park 2, Altona North 1 Yarra Jets 1

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Endeavour Hills 8 (OC Berbia Joaquin 2 NJ Leimee 2) Ringwood City 1 (E Frans), Harrisfield Hurricanes 0 Middle Park FC 3 (M Roberts C Stevenson Own Goal), Caulfield Grammarians 0 St Kevins 1 (CA Formica W Hughes), Old Mentonians Dandenong Warriors, Reserves: Endeavour Hills 2 Ringwood City 4, Harrisfield Hurricanes 0 Middle Park FC 2, Caulfield Grammarians 2 St Kevins 1, Old Mentonians Dandenong Warriors

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Doncaster Rovers 2 (N Cauchi R Payne) Uni. of Melbourne 1, Whitehorse Utd 1 (S Stergiou) South Springvale 5 (J Pedic N Weraogoda T Grkinjic M Batinic 2), Bayswater Strikers Ballarat & District , Monbulk 0 Brighton 0, Bundoora Utd 7 (K White 4) South Yarra 0, Reserves: Doncaster Rovers 2 Uni. of Melbourne 0, Whitehorse Utd 1 South Springvale 3, Bayswater Strikers Ballarat Lady Devils 3, Monbulk 3 Brighton 0, Bundoora Utd 8 South Yarra 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: North Geelong Warriors 3 La Trobe University 0, Western Eagles 9 (S Sikic K Sliwinski 2 A Kezovska 4) Melbourne Bears 0, Darebin Falcons 4 Fawkner 2,

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 1 (E Meallin) Monash University 1 (K Cleland), Albert Park 6 (T Kiddle 2 H Saur S Dillon C Dixon Own Goal) Mooroolbark 0, Sandringham 4 Noble Park 0, Berwick City 0 Mornington 1 (J Vanstekeleburg), Southern Suburbs 3 (K Finlay A Da Costa K Larby) North Caulfield 1

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Brunswick Zebras Keilor Park , Maribymong Utd 0 Kyneton District 1 (SM Hoopell), Melton 1 Sunshine George Cross 0, Old Carey 0 Yarra Jets 4 (T Nguyen S Cosgrove 2 h browne), Diamond Valley Utd Eltham Redbacks

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 2 Beaumaris 0, Endeavour Utd 1 (K Fernandes) Knox City 1 (A Georgiou), Langwarrin 3 East Bentleigh 0, Croydon City Arrows 1 (TL Latimer) Seaford Utd 0, South Melbourne 3 Box Hill Inter 2

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Tullamarine Jets 0 Mitchell Rangers 6, Plenty Valley Lions 4 Northern Roosters 0, Brunswick Zebras Brunswick City , Watsonia Heights 3 Melbourne Knights 1

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Berwick City 4 Dandenong City 2, Croydon City Arrows 0 Kingston City 7, Mooroolbark Skye Utd ,

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Sandringham 6 (D Tracey 3 K O'Brien 3) Monash University 0, Albert Park 3 Sydenham Park 2, Whittlesea Zebras 2 Swinburne University WSC 2, Uni. of Melbourne 2 Bayside Argonauts 1

MENSTHIRSDIV1:SouthernSuburbs1KynetonDistrict2,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Melbourne University 3 Upfield 2, Brunswick City 2 Mitchell Rangers 0, Collingwood City 1 Essendon Utd 1,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Nunawading City FC 3 South Yarra 4, Berwick City Old Melburnians ,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Melton 4 Werribee City 2, Plenty Valley Lions 4 Northcote City 5, Uni. of Melbourne 1 La Trobe University 3, Hoppers Crossing 5 Melbourne Lions 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Riversdale 3 RMIT Redbacks 1, Old Haileybury 8 Old Melburnians 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Watsonia Heights 3 Cairnlea 5,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Old Scotch 2 RMIT Redbacks 2, Marcellin Eagles 5 Elwood City 5,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST: Heidelberg Utd 1 Moreland Wolves 1, Mitchell Rangers 1 Melbourne Bears 12, Keon Park 4 North Sunshine Eagles 3,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: Frankston Pines 4 Eltham Redback FC 1, Old Carey 2 East Bentleigh 3, Middle Park FC 3 Keysborough 1,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIVISION 6: Brimbank Stallions 3 Sandringham City 13, Beaumaris 3 Sandringham City 2 2

MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST: Heidelberg Utd 5 Avondale Heights 0, Whittlesea Zebras 3 Doc Utd 1,

MENS MASTERS SOUTH-EAST: North Caulfield 3 Doveton 2,

MENS MASTERS CENTRAL: Middle Park	MENS MASTERS SOUTH-West: North-West
FC 4 Caulfield Cobras 0, Eastern Lions 2 Juventus Old Boys 3, Beaumaris 0 Ashburton 1, Mens Metropolitan League	P W D L F A PT
Moreland Wolves	11 7 2 2 26 11 23
Tullamarine Jets	11 7 2 2 27 14 23
Heidelberg Stars	11 6 3 2 20 16 21
Altona North	11 4 5 2 24 18 17
Light Utd	11 4 3 4 18 19 15
Oak Park	11 5 5 1 29 15 14
Yarra Jets	11 3 3 5 17 22 12
Northern Utd	11 2 2 7 12 21 8
Ascot Vale	11 1 3 7 9 20 6
Keon Park	11 1 2 8 15 41 5

Mens Metropolitan League	North-West	Reserves
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Light Utd	11 7 2 2 38 17 26	
Heidelberg Stars	11 7 4 0 38 19 25	
Moreland Wolves	11 7 2 2 38 18 23	
Northern Utd	11 7 1 3 32 22 22	
Tullamarine Jets	11 5 3 3 28 22 18	
Oak Park	11 4 1 6 23 17 13	
Yarra Jets	11 3 3 5 24 25 11	
Ascot Vale	11 2 2 7 12 28 8	
Altona North	11 2 2 7 16 31 7	
Keon Park	11 0 0 11 14 54 0	

Mens Metropolitan League	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Middle Park FC	9 6 2 1 26 11 20
Dandenong Warriors	9 6 2 1 17 11 20
Harrisfield Hurricanes	9 3 4 2 19 17 13
Old Mentonians	7 3 3 1 16 10 12
Parkmore	8 4 0 4 13 12 12
Ringwood City	10 3 2 5 15 27 11
Caulfield Grammarians	10 2 3 5 14 19 9
Endeavour Hills	10 2 2 6 18 19 8
St Kevins	10 2 2 6 17 29 8

Mens Metropolitan League	South-East	Reserves
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Middle Park FC	9 8 1 0 33 6 25	
Ringwood City	10 7 2 1 25 12 23	
Dandenong Warriors	9 6 1 2 24 18 19	
Endeavour Hills	10 4 0 6 13 19 12	
Parkmore	9 3 2 4 14 14 11	
St Kevins	10 2 4 4 10 18 10	
Old Mentonians	8 2 2 4 15 26 8	
Harrisfield Hurricanes	9 2 1 6 12 15 7	
Caulfield Grammarians	10 1 1 8 16 34 4	

Womens State League	Div 1	Reserves
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Bundoora Utd	10 8 0 2 39 11 24	
Doncaster Rovers	10 7 2 1 28 9 23	
Ballarat & District	9 6 2 1 28 9 20	
Uni. of Melbourne	10 6 0 4 27 17 18	
Bayswater Strikers	9 6 0 3 28 21 18	
Monbulk	10 4 3 3 14 11 15	
South Springvale	10 4 0 6 22 20 12	
Whitehorse Utd	10 2 2 6 19 31 8	
Brighton	10 1 1 8 7 37 4	
South Yarra	10 0 0 10 4 50 0	

Womens State League	Div 1	Reserves
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Doncaster Rovers	10 10 0 0 40 0 30	
Bundoora Utd	10 8 1 1 41 5 25	
South Springvale	10 5 2 3 18 15 17	
Uni. of Melbourne	10 4 4 2 27 13 16	
Bayswater Strikers	9 5 0 4 29 21 15	
Monbulk	10 4 3 3 16 14 15	
Brighton	10 1 5 4 9 24 8	
Whitehorse Utd	10 2 1 7 12 27 7	
Ballarat Lady Devils	9 1 1 7 5 21 4	
South Yarra	10 0 1 9 3 60 1	

Womens State League	Div 2	North-West
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
La Trobe University	10 8 0 2 32 9 24	
Cairnlea	9 7 2 0 38 7 23	
Western Eagles	10 7 1 2 42 8 8	
FC Bulleen Lions	9 6 2 1 22 5 10	
North Geelong Warriors	10 6 0 4 25 9 18	
Fawkner	10 3 1 6 18 25 10	
Western Suburbs	9 3 1 5 11 22 10	
Darebin Falcons	10 3 1 6 17 34 10	
Whittlesea Ranges FC	9 0 1 8 8 40 1	
Melbourne Bears	10 0 1 9 3 57 1	

Womens State League	Div 2	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Sandringham	10 7 3 0 27 6 24	
Albert Park	10 6 1 3 34 12 19	
Southern Suburbs	10 5 2 3 17 15 17	
Mornington	10 4 3 3 12 14 15	
Berwick City	10 4 1 5 26 17 13	
Ashburton	10 3 4 3 14 16 13	
Noble Park	10 4 1 5 22 27 13	
Mooroolbark	10 3 2 5 11 24 11	
Monash University	10 1 4 5 15 22 7	
North Caulfield	10 2 1 7 14 39 7	

Womens State League	Div 3	North-West
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Keilor Park	9 9 0 0 64 14 27	
Yarra Jets	10 8 1 1 35 13 25	
Brunswick Zebras	9 5 3 1 19 10 18	
Diamond Valley Utd	10 4 1 5 20 17 13	
Eltham Redbacks	9 4 1 4 22 17 13	
Sunshine George Cross	10 4 1 5 20 18 13	
Melton	10 4 1 5 12 25 13	
Old Carey	10 3 0 7 18 38 9	
Kyneton District	10 2 0 8 9 38 6	
Maribymong Utd	10 0 0 10 7 44 0	

Womens State League	Div 3	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Seaford Utd	10 8 1 1 50 5 25	
Box Hill Inter	10 7 1 2 47 11 22	
South Melbourne	10 6 2 2 37 19 20	
Langwarrin	10 5 4 1 35 9 19	
Croydon City Arrows	10 6 1 3 23 13 19	
Ashburton	10 3 1 6 26 30 10	
Knox City	10 2 4 5 14 22 10	
Endeavour Utd	10 3 1 6 19 36 10	
Beaumaris	10 1 1 8 18 59 4	
East Bentleigh	10 1 0 9 7 73 3	

Womens Metropolitan League	North-West
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Brunswick City	9 9 0 0 76 7 27
Fitzroy City	9 6 2 1 28 5 20
Mitchell Rangers	10 6 2 2 27 8 20
Brunswick Zebras	9 6 0 3 41 19 18
Melbourne Knights	10 5 2 3 35 13 17
Watsonia Heights	10 5 0 5 21 26 15
Plenty Valley Lions	10 4 0 6 14 31 12
Tullamarine Jets	10 3 0 7 21 31 9
Yarra Jets	9 1 0 8 11 55 3
Northern Roosters	10 0 0 10 2 81 0

Womens Metropolitan League	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Berwick City	10 10 0 0 63 9 30
Dandenong City	10 8 0 2 58 14 24
Kingston City	10 6 2 2 26 13 20
Endeavour Hills	9 5 1 3 35 9 16
Mooroolbark	9 3 2 4 12 23 11
Eltham Redbacks	9 3 2 4 9 21 11
Skye Utd	9 3 1 5 8 33 10
Croydon City Arrows	10 2 1 7 13 30 7
Sandringham	9 2 1 6 11 48 7
Monash University	9 0 0 9 2 37 0

Womens Metropolitan League	Central
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Sandringham	10 8 1 1 28 12 25
Sydenham Park	10 8 0 2 41 12 24
Whittlesea Zebras	10 6 3 1 24 9 21
Uni. of Melbourne	10 5 1 4 19 15 16
Bayside Argonauts	10 4 0 6 26 27 12
Monash University	10 3 2 5 10 26 11
Port Melbourne	9 3 1 5 8 20 10
Albert Park	10 2 2 6 7 25 8
Elwood City	9 2 1 6 10 17 7
Swinburne University WSC	10 1 3 6 11 21 3

Mens Thirds League	Div 1
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Cleeland Utd	9 7 2 0 26 8 23
Kyneton District	10 6 3 1 24 9 21
South Yarra	9 6 2 1 42 8 20
Altona Lions	9 6 0 3 26 20 18
Marcellin Old Collegians	9 4 2 3 22 26 14
La Trobe University	9 4 0 5 31 32 12
Doveton	9 2 2 5 12 19 8
Juventus Old Boys	9 2 2 5 18 32 8
Monash University	9 1 1 7 14 26 4
Southern Suburbs	10 0 2 8 8 43 2

Mens Thirds League	Div 2	North-West
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Brunswick City	10 7 3 0 33 8 24	
Mitchell Rangers	10 7 2 1 22 6 23	
La Trobe University	9 6 1 2 14 10 19	
Glenroy	9 5 0 4 20 15 15	
Melbourne University	10 4 3 3 17 13 15	
Keilor Park	9 3 2 4 22 20 11	
Moreland City	9 2 3 4 11 13 9	

Collingwood City	10 2 2 6 19 29 8
Upfield	10 1 2 7 14 29 5
Essendon Utd	10 1 2 7 8 37 5

Mens Thirds League	Div 2	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Bayside Argonauts	9 7 1 1 22 7 22	
South Yarra	10 6 3 1 23 10 21	
Caulfield Grammarians	9 6 2 1 27 20 13	
Old Melburnians	8 3 4 1 16 13 13	
Boroondara Eagles	9 4 1 4 14 16 13	
Berwick City	9 4 0 5 20 25 12	
Nunawading City FC	10 2 2 6 25 31 8	
Central Park AC Malvern	9 2 1 6 16 25 7	
Old Scotch	9 2 0 7 12 22 6	
Old Camberwell Grammar	8 1 2 5 17 23 5	

Mens Thirds League	Div 3	North-West
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Northcote City	10 6 2 2 43 25 20	
Plenty Valley Lions	10 6 1 3 26 21 19	
Werribee City	10 5 3 2 29 18 18	
Kyneton District	9 5 2 2 21 11 17	
Lalor	9 5 1 3 21 20 16	
Hoppers Crossing Uni. of Melbourne	10 3 4 3 27 22 13	
Melbourne Lions	10 3 1 6 17 20 10	
Melton	10 3 1 6 15 23 10	
La Trobe University	10 2 0 8 17 33 6	

Mens Thirds League	Div 3	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Old Haileybury	10 8 0 2 34 7 24	
Riversdale	10 8 0 2 35 21 14	
Brandon Park	9 6 1 2 29 10 19	
RMIT Redbacks	10 6 0 4 40 19 18	
Central Park Rangers	9 5 0 4 16 15 15	
Melbourne University	9 4 0 5 19 36 12	
Monash University	9 2 1 6 19 19 7	
Old Melburnians	10 2 1 7 21 32 7	
Old Trinity Grammarians	9 2 1 6 11 42 7	
Bayside Argonauts	9 1 2 6 12 35 5	

Mens Thirds League	Div 4	North-West
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Altona City	8 7 1 0 38 6 22	
Brimbank Stallions	8 7 0 1 25 8 8	
Kyneton District	9 6 0 3 25 17 18	
Cairnlea	9 5 1 3 35 21 16	
Diamond Valley Utd	9 5 0 4 17 22 15	
Williamstown	8 3 1 4 20 28 10	
Uni. of Melbourne	8 2 2 4 22 20 8	
Eltham Redback FC	9 2 1 6 17 32 7	
Watsonia Heights	9 0 0 9 5 41 0	

Mens Thirds League	Div 4	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
South Yarra	9 8 1 0 38 7 25	
Beaumaris	9 7 1 1 25 12 22	
Ashburton	9 5 2 2 21 14 17	
Marcellin Eagles	10 4 4 4 24 23 16	
Caulfield Cobras	9 5 0 4 22 19 15	
Monash University	9 4 2 3 25 18 14	
Old Melburnians	9 3 2 4 17 20 11	
Elwood City	10 2 1 7 17 29 7	
Old Scotch	10 1 2 7 12 28 5	
RMIT Redbacks	10 0 1 9 8 39 1	

Mens Thirds League	Div 5	North-West
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Melbourne Bears	10 9 1 0 54 6 28	
Altona City	9 8 1 0 42 5 25	
Keon Park	10 6 1 3 24 19 19	
North Sunshine Eagles	10 5 2 3 24 20 17	
Heidelberg Utd	10 4 3 3 24 15 15	
Moreland Wolves	10 4 1 5 28 36 13	
Uni. of Melbourne	9 3 0 6 16 36 9	
Kyneton District	9 2 2 5 10 19 8	
Melbourne University	9 1 1 7 12 33 4	
Mitchell Rangers	10 0 0 10 11 56 0	

Mens Thirds League	Div 5	South-East
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Middle Park FC	9 8 0 1 47 10 24	
Dandenong Thunder	8 7 0 1 48 6 21	
Frankston Pines	9 7 0 2 29 15 21	
East Bentleigh	9 4 0 5 22 25 12	
Old Brighton Grammarians	8 4 0 4 20 28 12	
Bunyip & District Soccer Club	8 3 1 4 17 24 10	
Keysborough	9 2 1 6 14 38 7	
Old Carey	9 2 0 7 18 38 6	
Eltham Redback FC	9 1 0 8 7 38 3	

Mens	Thirds	League		Division			6	
		P	W	D	L	F		A
Sandringham City	1	9	6	3	0	44	10	21
Brimbank Stallions		9	6	1	2	26	16	19
Sandringham City	2	9	5	1	3	32	27	16
Carlton Youth		9	5	2	2	23	19	14



Boys South East 12 C: North Caulfield Bye , Southern Stars 7 Aspendale 1, Brighton 0 Benteleigh Greens 14, Bayside Argonauts Beaumaris

Boys South East 13 A: East Benteleigh 1 Sandringham City 1, Glen Eira North Caulfield , Sandringham City 4 Benteleigh Greens 0, Brighton 5 Hampton 3

Boys South East 13 B: East Benteleigh 0 Brighton 1, Beaumaris 3 Sandringham City 0, Caulfield Cobras 10 Bayside Knights 1, Brighton 4 Hampton 0, Aspendale 7 Brighton 0

Boys South East 14 A: Benteleigh Greens Bye , North Caulfield 0 Brighton 2, Caulfield Cobras 7 Beaumaris 2, Sandringham City 4 East Benteigh 0, Brighton Hampton

Boys South East 14 B: Benteleigh Greens 5 Hampton 0, East Benteigh 1 Sandringham City 2 0, North Caulfield 1 1 Brighton 0, Beaumaris 1 2 Sandringham City 1 1, Beaumaris 2 0 North Caulfield 2 0

Boys South East 15 A: Benteigh Greens 3 Sandringham City 4, Bye North Caulfield , Brighton 4 Benteigh Greens 2, Brighton 3 East Benteigh 1

Boys South East 15 B: East Benteigh 5 Beaumaris 1, Glen Eira North Caulfield , Brighton Glen Eira , Brighton 3 Hampton 2

Boys South East 16 A: Benteigh Greens 0 Benteigh Greens 6, East Benteigh 0 North Caulfield 5, Beaumaris 1 Brighton 0, Caulfield Cobras 5 Bayside Knights 5, Brighton Hampton

Boys South-South East 13 C: Frankston Pines North Caulfield , Berwick City 5 Beaumaris 0, Dandenong City Bayside Argonauts , Keysborough 4 Brighton 1, Lyndale Utd Kingston City , Aspendale 1 Casey Comets 5

Boys South-South East 16 B: North Caulfield 8 East Benteigh 1, Berwick City 6 Peninsula 0, Hampton 1 Heatherton Utd 6, Brighton Southern Stars

Boys South 12 A: Bye Dandenong City , Berwick City 6 Dandenong Thunder 0, Doveton 0 Peninsula 10, South Eastern Piranhas 4 Mornington 0

Boys South 12 B: Baxter Doveton , Berwick City 0 Langwarrin 1, Endeavour Utd 2 Mornington 1, Peninsula 5 Hampton Park Utd 1

Boys South 12 C: Berwick City 3 Berwick City 1, Carrum Utd 0 Keysborough 0, Heatherton Utd 6 Casey Panthers 0, Peninsula Mornington , Westemport 0 James Cook FC 0

Boys South 13 A: Berwick City 0 Springvale White Eagles 3, Dandenong City Doveton , Langwarrin 5 Mornington 0, South Eastern Piranhas 4 Hampton Park Utd 1

Boys South 13 B: Berwick City 3 Baxter 0, Carrum Utd 5 Mornington 3, Southern Stars 2 Casey Comets 3, Endeavour Utd 8 Langwarrin 2, Peninsula 0 White Star Dandenong 2

Boys South 14 A: Berwick City 0 Casey Comets 2, Doveton 1 Mornington 1, Hampton Park Utd Peninsula , South Eastern Piranhas 1 Dandenong Thunder 0, Bye South Springvale

Boys South 14 B: Berwick City 6 Langwarrin 2, Carrum Utd 0 Keysborough 5, Lyndale Utd Doveton , Seaford Utd 3 Peninsula 2

Boys South 14 C: Baxter 1 Casey Comets 9, Casey Panthers 8 Westemport 1, Dandenong Warriors Dandenong City , Rosebud Hampton Park Utd

Boys South 15 A: Bye Keysborough , Berwick City 3 Dandenong City 3, Doveton Springvale White Eagles , Peninsula 6 Endeavour Utd 1, South Eastern Piranhas 4 Dandenong Thunder 2

Boys South 15 B: Berwick City 9 Frankston Pines 1, Carrum Utd 4 Endeavour Utd 1, Peninsula 2 Baxter 3, Mornington Langwarrin , James Cook FC 2 Casey Comets 5

Boys South 16 A: Bye Keysborough , Berwick City 9 Casey Comets 1, Peninsula 4 Langwarrin 0, South Eastern Piranhas 5 Hampton Park Utd 1, Mornington White Star Dandenong

Boys West 12 A: Melbourne Knights 0 Brimbank Stallions 0, Altona City Keilor Park , North Geelong Warriors 0 Ballarat Academy of Soccer 0, Sydenham Park 0 Green Gully Cavaliers 5, St Albans Saints Hoppers Crossing 2

Boys West 12 B: Cairnlea 3 Bell Park 0, Altona City Keilor Park 2 , Keilor Park 1 Bye , Laverton Park Green Gully Cavaliers , Spring Hills 0 Sunshine Heights 1

Boys West 13 A: Brimbank Stallions 0 Keilor Park 4, Melbourne Knights 1 Sunshine George Cross 0, Altona City Werribee City , Brimbank City 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 3, St Albans Saints 1 Hoppers Crossing 2

Boys West 13 B: Cairnlea 15 Brimbank Stallions 0, Altona East Phoenix Ballarat Academy of Soccer , Keilor Park Bye , Laverton Park 0 Green Gully Cavaliers 3, Williamstown 0 GRFA 2

Boys West 13 C: Hoppers Crossing Bye , North Geelong Warriors 17 Oak Park SC 0, Westvale 11 Williamstown 0, Spring Hills 0 Sunshine George Cross 2

Boys West 14 A: Melbourne Knights 1 GRFA 1, Cairnlea 3 Altona Magic 0, Altona City Keilor Park , Ballarat Academy of Soccer 9 Hoppers Crossing 0, Bye Green Gully Cavaliers

Boys West 14 B: Brimbank Stallions 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 1, Cairnlea Bye , Keilor Park 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Williamstown 1 Sydenham Park 2, St Albans Saints 1 Sunshine Heights 3

Boys West 14 C: Bye Satellite City Utd , Melton 2 Werribee City 5, Point Cook FC Altona City , Western Eagles 2 Williamstown 1

Boys West 15 A: Altona City Brimbank City , Ballarat Academy of Soccer 2 Green Gully Cavaliers 5, Geelong 1 Keilor Park 6, GRFA 5 Sunshine George Cross 3

Boys West 15 B: Altona City Werribee City , Keilor Park 1 Brimbank Stallions 0, Sydenham Park 4 Hoppers Crossing 1, Williamstown 10 Sunshine George Cross 0, North Lions 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 12

Boys West 16 A: North Geelong Warriors 8 Keilor Park 0, Sunshine George Cross 1 Werribee City 1, Melbourne Knights 5 Westgate 0, Altona East Phoenix Sunshine Heights , Sydenham Park 4 Green Gully Cavaliers 1

Boys West 16 B: Cairnlea Bye , Keilor Park Spring Hills , Melton 1 Western Eagles 0, Williamstown 8 Satellite City Utd 0, St Albans Saints 2 Hoppers Crossing 2

Girls Central - North East - East 18: Bye Whitehorse Utd 2 , Boroondara Eagles 3 Whitehorse Utd 1 0, Knox City 5 Yarra Jets 0, Diamond Valley Utd 1 Richmond 2

Girls North West 12 A: FC Bulleen Lions 1 Whitehorse Utd 1, Box Hill Inter 6 Richmond 0, St Albans Saints 2 Boroondara Eagles 1, Banyule City Bundoora Utd , Ashburton 3 Richmond 1

Girls North West 12 B: Keilor Park 6 Brunswick Zebras 0, Kensington JGSC 1 Alphonito 0, Green Gully Cavaliers 0 Pascoe Vale 7, Diamond Valley Utd 5 Watsonia Heights 1, Eltham Redback FC Essendon Royals

Girls South East - South 18 : East Benteigh 1 3 East Benteigh 2 1, Casey Comets Springvale White Eagles , Hampton Park Utd Brighton , Langwarrin Bye

Girls South East 12 A: Berwick City 1 Ringwood City 1, Bye Sherbrooke Rangers , Sandringham 11 North Caulfield 2, Brighton 1 Peninsula 0

Girls South East 12 B: Glen Waverley Brighton , Aspendale 9 Bayside Knights 0, Bye Waverley Victory , Casey Panthers Sandringham

Girls West - North West - North 18: Ballarat & District 3 Brunswick Zebras 1, Gisborne Keilor Wolves , Epping City 2 Bundoora Utd 3, Hoppers Crossing 2 Sunbury Utd 0, Keilor Park 1 Pascoe Vale 3

Girls Central - North East - East 13-14 A: Croydon City Arrows 0 Boroondara Eagles 5, Ashburton 1 FC Clifton Hill 1, FC Bulleen Lions 1 Boroondara Eagles 1, Malvern City 1 Oakleigh Cannons 2

Girls Central - North East - East 13-14 B: Ashburton 1 3 Glen Waverley 1, South Melbourne Ashburton 2 , Kensington JGSC 1 Sherbrooke Rangers 1, Croydon City Arrows 1 FC Bulleen Lions 4, Box Hill Inter 5 Boroondara Eagles 1, Eltham Redback FC Knox City

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 A: Mooroolbark 0 Whitehorse Utd 0, Doncaster Rovers 4 Sherbrooke Rangers 3, Knox City 0 Ashburton 1, Kensington JGSC Boroondara Eagles , FC Bulleen Lions Croydon City Arrows

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 B: Nunawading City FC Oakleigh Cannons , Ashburton 1 Alphonito 2, Box Hill Inter 3 South Melbourne 0, Boroondara Eagles 1 1 Boroondara Eagles 2 5

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 C: Greenvale Utd Oakleigh Cannons , FC Bulleen Lions 1 Glen Waverley 0, Watsonia Heights Brandon Park , DOC Utd 1 Waverley Victory 7

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 D: South Yarra Eastern Lions , Croydon City Arrows 3 Boronia 0, Eltham Redback FC Yarra Jets

Girls South East - South 13-14 A: Berwick City 4 Peninsula 0, Hampton 3 North Caulfield 1, Sandringham 5 Carrum Utd 0, Brighton Bye

Girls South East - South 13-14 B: Hampton 0 North Caulfield 5, Sandringham 1 8 Mornington 0, Southern Stars 0 Sandringham 2 0, Brighton 2 1 Carrum Utd 3, Casey Panthers 1 Brighton 1 1

Girls South East - South 13-14 C: East Benteigh 6 Seaford Utd 0, Berwick City 2 Glen Eira 1, Oakleigh Cannons 1 Mornington 1, Sandringham 0 Endeavour Utd 0, Yarra Jets 1 Langwarrin 8, White Star Dandenong Rosebud

Girls South East - South 15-16 A: Bye North Caulfield , Southern Stars 1 Peninsula 0, Mornington Carrum Utd , Sandringham 9 Glen Eira 1, Baxter 1 Dandenong City 4

Girls South East - South 15-16 B: Bayside Knights 0 North Caulfield 5, Noble Park 5 Brighton 2, Peninsula 4 Casey Panthers 1, Mornington Sandringham , Langwarrin 1 Carrum Utd 2

Girls West - North West - North 13-14 A: Green Gully Cavaliers 2 Pascoe Vale 2, Banyule City Bundoora Utd , Keilor Park 3 Essendon Royals 0, Sunbury Utd 1 Watsonia Heights 5, St Albans Saints 1 Brunswick Zebras 2

Girls West - North West - North 13-14 B: Sydenham Park 0 Diamond Valley Utd 2, Brunswick Zebras Cairnlea , Keilor Park 3 Williamstown 0, Bundoora Utd Yarra Jets

Girls West - North West - North 15-16 A: Werribee City 3 Brunswick Zebras 0, Bundoora Utd Bye , Banyule City Heidelberg Utd , Keilor Park 3 Whittlesea Ranges FC 0, Essendon Royals 11 Sydenham Park 0

Girls West - North West - North 15-16 B: Bacchus Marsh 3 Keilor Park 6, North City Lions Cairnlea , Bye Sydenham Park , Essendon Royals 0 Watsonia Heights 3, Spring Hills 4 Whittlesea Utd 1, Brimbank Stallions 7 Brimbank City 0, Altona City Brunswick Zebras

Central SSF Boys 11 Joeys (Sun): South Melbourne 4 Alphonito 3, Port Melbourne 6 Melbourne Lions 2, South Yarra 0 Malvern City 5, Yarraville Glory Yarra Jets , Melbourne Athletic JFC FC Clifton Hill

Central SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : South Melbourne 13 Port Melbourne 0, South Melbourne 26 FC Demons 2, South Yarra 0 FC Clifton Hill 5, Yarra Jets 5 Malvern City 2

East SSF Boys 11 Joeys (Sat): Glen Waverley 2 Montrose , Glen Waverley 3 Croydon City Arrows , Knox City 1 Mooroolbark 0, Boronia 6 Glen Waverley 1 3

East SSF Boys 11 Joeys (Sun) : Oakleigh Cannons 1 1 Oakleigh Cannons 2 4, Knox Utd 1 5 Montrose 0, Knox Utd 2 Croydon City Arrows , Ringwood City 6 Waverley Victory 1, Oakleigh Cannons 3 Eastern Lions 0

East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sat): Eastern Lions 2 Mooroolbark 1 1, Glen Waverley 2 2 Glen Waverley 1 4, Mooroolbark 2 0 Croydon City Arrows 2

East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : Oakleigh Cannons 1 1 Brandon Park 0, Eastern Lions 7 Knox Utd 2, Cardinia Utd 1 Glen Waverley 2, Ringwood City Oakleigh Cannons 2

East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos/Joey's (Sun) : Oakleigh Cannons 1 5 Oakleigh Cannons 2 0, Waverley Wanderers Waverley Victory , Cardinia Utd Monash City

North East SSF Boys 11 Joeys (Sun): Manningham 1 4 Ashburton 1 3, Manningham 2 1 Eltham North 1 4, Eltham North 2 Ashburton 2 , Eltham North 3 DOC Utd , Wonga Park Wizards JFC Ashburton 3

North East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Lime (Sat): Ashburton 1 7 Box Hill Inter 2, Nunawading City FC Ashburton 2 , Doncaster Rovers 13 Riversdale 1, Whitehorse Utd 3 Doncaster Rovers 2 2, FC Bulleen Lions 1 Boroondara Eagles 1

North East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Red (Sat): Boroondara Eagles 1 4 Whitehorse Utd 1 1, Ashburton 1 0 Box Hill Inter 5, Doncaster Rovers 0 Whitehorse Utd 2 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 2 , FC Bulleen Lions 1 3 FC Bulleen Lions 2 3

North East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : Ashburton 3 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Eltham North 1 1 FC Bulleen Lions 1 4, Nunawading City FC 1 Ashburton 1 , Nunawading City FC 2 Eltham North 2 , Manningham 0 Ashburton 2 2

North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Joeys (Sat): Richmond 1 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers 4 Richmond 2 1, Whitehorse Utd 1 FC Demons , Box Hill Inter 0 Riversdale 1, Bye Boroondara Eagles , FC Bulleen Lions 1 Whitehorse Utd 2 4

North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Kang Blue (Sat):

Bye FC Bulleen Lions 1 , Richmond 2 4 Ashburton 0, Doncaster Rovers Richmond 1 , Elwood City 3 Boroondara Eagles 0, FC Bulleen Lions 2 Epping City

North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Kang Yellow (Sat): Riversdale 7 FC Bulleen Lions 1 2, Ashburton Richmond 1 , Richmond 2 1 Doncaster Rovers 6, Box Hill Inter 1 Whitehorse Utd 1, FC Bulleen Lions 2 Bye

North East-East SSF Girls 11 Pink (Sun): Ashburton 2 Oakleigh Cannons , Knox Utd Box Hill Inter , Ashburton 1 2 Boroondara Eagles 3, DOC Utd 6 Ringwood City 1

North East-East SSF Girls 11 Purple (Sun): Ashburton 1 5 Boroondara Eagles 0, Croydon City Arrows 2 Mooroolbark 1, Ashburton 2 Ringwood City

North SSF Boys 11 Joeys (Sun): Diamond Valley Utd 2 Watsonia Heights 3, Banyule City Whittlesea Ranges FC , Lalor Utd 4 Bundoora Utd 1 0, Mitchell Rangers 1 Northcote City 3

North SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun): Preston Lions 1 1 Whittlesea Ranges 1 2, Whittlesea Ranges 2 2 Northcote City 3, Epping City 0 Bundoora Utd 1 4, Lalor 5 Preston Lions 2 0, Bundoora Utd 2 Banyule City

North West SSF Boys 11 Joeys Orange (Sun) : Fawkner 2 Brunswick City 1, Gisborne Sunbury Utd , Pascoe Vale 1 Essendon Royals , Oak Park SC 2 Pascoe Vale 2 1, Meadow Park Eagles 0 Flemington Eagles 5

North West SSF Boys 11 Joeys Purple (Sun) : North City Lions 0 Brunswick City 5, Meadow Park Eagles 1 Flemington Eagles 1, Essendon Royals 5 Moreland City 0, Hume City Light Utd , Pascoe Vale 5 Brunswick Zebras 0

North West SSF Boys 11 Joeys Red (Sun): Light Utd 5 North City Lions 0, Hume City Essendon Royals , Pascoe Vale 5 Sunbury Utd 0, Upfield 5 Moreland Utd 0

North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Purple (Sun): North City Lions 0 Brunswick City 5, Essendon Royals 6 Flemington Eagles 1, Moreland City Avondale Heights , Moreland Utd Brunswick Zebras 1 , Brunswick Zebras 2 1 Melbourne Phoenix 6

North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 1 Keilor Wolves , Essendon Royals 2 3 Light Utd 6, Moreland City 4 Gisborne 2, Pascoe Vale 7 Upfield 2, Brunswick Zebras 0 Fawkner 5

North West-North-Central SSF Girls 11 (Sun): South Melbourne 1 Greenvale Utd , FC Clifton Hill 0 Banyule City 15, Yarra Jets Banyule City 2, South Melbourne 2 Essendon Royals , Kensington JGSC 0 South Yarra 5, Fawkner Bye

North-Central SSF Boys 11 Joeys/Kangaroos (Sun) : Whittlesea Ranges FC 0 South Melbourne 5, Banyule City Yarra Jets , Bundoora Utd 1 Watsonia Heights , Bundoora Utd 2 Bye , Sporting Whittlesea FC Clifton Hill

South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Blue (Sat): Brighton 3 2 Bayside Argonauts 1, East Benteigh 5 Beaumaris 2 5, Hampton 1 3 Glen Eira 0, Brighton 2 5 Sandringham City 4, Beaumaris 1 5 Brighton 1 0, Hampton 2 1 Dandenong Warriors 1

South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Sandringham City 2 3 Glen Eira 2 3, Brighton 1 Bye , Brighton 3 2 Brighton 2 1, East Benteigh 1 5 Glen Eira 3 1, Beaumaris 1 2 Sandringham City 1 0, Beaumaris 2 3 Glen Eira 1 3

South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sun) : North Caulfield 3 Brighton 2, Bye Sandringham City , Southern Suburbs 2 Sandringham City 3, Brighton Benteigh Greens , Aspendale 2 North Caulfield 2

South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Orange (Sun): East Benteigh 5 Sandringham City 2, North Caulfield 2 0 Beaumaris 2, Brighton 3 Aspendale 0, Bayside Knights Bye

South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Yellow (Sun): North Caulfield 2 0 East Benteigh 5, Caulfield Cobras 5 Hampton 7, Bayside Knights 2 North Caulfield 1 0, Brighton 0 Sandringham City 4

South East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sat): Sandringham City 1 1 Sandringham City 2 3, Brighton 2 1 Brighton 1 3, Doveton Bye , Hampton 1 Bayside Argonauts 6

South East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : Benteigh Greens 1 Sandringham City 1 3, North Caulfield 2 2 Sandringham City 2 1, Bayside Knights 2 North Caulfield 1 5, Aspendale 4 Hampton 2

South East-South SSF Girls 11 Joeys Pink (Sun): Sandringham 1 0 North Caulfield 2 2, Hampton 3 Bayside Argonauts 0, Mornington Brighton 1 , Sandringham 2 North Caulfield 1 , Brighton 2 East Benteigh

South East-Sth SSF Girls 11 Kang Purple (Sun): Sandringham 1 3 Mornington 1 , Sandringham 2 1 North Caulfield 1 , Brighton 5 Beaumaris 0

South SSF Boys 11 Joeys Blue (Sun): Langwarrin 2 Doveton 1, Peninsula 1 Casey Comets , Berwick City 6 Peninsula 2 1, Casey Panthers 2 Noble Park 1 , Hampton Park Utd 2 Endeavour Utd 3, Carrum Utd 0 Mornington 0

South SSF Boys 11 Joeys Lime (Sun) : Dandenong Thunder Peninsula , Hampton Park Utd 1 Springvale White Eagles 6, Langwarrin 4 Casey Panthers 1, Berwick City 1 3 Berwick City 2 9, Heatherton Utd 6 South Springvale 1

South SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Blue (Sun): Berwick City 3 Mornington 1, Carrum Utd 4 Peninsula 1, Southern Stars 1 Langwarrin 2, South Eastern Piranhas 3 Casey Panthers 0, Dandenong Thunder Springvale White Eagles

South SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Lime (Sun) : Berwick City 4 Hampton Park Utd 3, Endeavour Utd 0 Casey Comets 4, Keysborough 1 South Eastern Piranhas 5, Langwarrin 0 Mornington 5, Carrum Utd South Springvale

South SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos/Joey's (Sun) : Berwick City 1 6 Berwick City 2 1, Doveton 6 Langwarrin 1, Mornington 2 0 Peninsula 2, James Cook FC 0 Mornington 1 5, Casey Comets South Springvale

West SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sun) : Green Gully Cavaliers 2 Altona East Phoenix 1, Hoppers Crossing Cairnlea 2, Melton Cairnlea 1 , Spring Hills 1 4 Spring Hills 2 0, Bacchus Marsh Point Cook FC

West SSF Boys 11 Joeys Yellow (Sun) : Green Gully Cavaliers 0 Werribee City 2, Cairnlea 0 Keilor Park 2, Brimbank City 4 Barnstoneworth Utd 1, Sydenham Park 5 Satellite City Utd 1, St Albans Saints 1 Point Cook FC 1

West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Orange (Sun) : Melbourne Knights 1 Sunshine George Cross 1, Hoppers Crossing Green Gully Cavaliers , Laverton Park 1 Altona Magic 1, Sydenham Park 0 Werribee City 4, St Albans Saints 1 Sunshine Heights 0

West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Yellow (Sun): Green Gully Cavaliers 1 2 Brimbank Stallions 0, Green Gully Cavaliers 2 3 Keilor Park 1, Sunshine George Cross 4 Altona East Phoenix 1, Altona City Ballarat Academy of Soccer , Sunshine Heights 3 Barnstoneworth Utd 0, Spring Hills 4 Williamstown 1

West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos/Joey's (Sun): Green Gully Cavaliers 1 4 Sunshine George Cross 4, Altona City 1 5 Spring Hills 0, Altona City 2 Point Cook FC , Brimbank Stallions Green Gully Cavaliers 2 , Keilor Park 0 Cairnlea 5, Williamstown 5 Melbourne Knights 3

Melbourne Futsal League Boys 12/13 South East: Bayside Lightning 5 Bayside Thunder 2, Bayside Sabres 2 Bayside Buccaneers 10, Bayside Lightning 1 Bayside Hurricanes 2, Bayside Sabres 1 Bayside Thunder 0, Bayside Buccaneers 7 Bayside Hurricanes 3

Boys	18					Blue
		P	W	D	L	F A PT
North Caulfield		10	8	1	1	36 14 25
GRFA		11	7	2	2	44 19 23
Whittlesea Zebras		11	6	3	2	28 19 21
Melbourne Phoenix		10	7	0	3	24 16 21
Malvern City		11	5	0	6	26 31 15
Benteigh Greens		9	4	1	4	17 21 13
Brunswick Zebras		9	3	0	6	20 26 9
Dandenong City		7	2	0	5	21 31 6
Springvale White Eagles		10	2	0	8	13 31 6
Fawkner		10	0	3	7	15 36 3

Boys	18					Central					Northern
		P	W	D	L	F A PT					
South Melbourne		7	6	1	0	39 8 19					
Sunshine George Cross		8	6	1	1	33 11 9					
Northern Utd		7	3	2	2	15 13 11					
Whittlesea Ranges FC		7	3	1	3	11 11 10					
Carlton Youth		7	2	2	3	21 22 8					
Pascoe Vale		8	2	2	4	11 20 8					
Heidelberg Stars		7	2	1	4	14 22 7					
Port Melbourne		7	0	0	7	10 47 0					

Boys	18					Eastern-					North-East
		P	W	D	L	F A PT					
Sherbrooke Rangers		9	9	0	0	57 9 27					
Doncaster Rovers		9	8	0	1	37 10 14					
Manningham		10	6	0	4	42 14 18					
Glen Waverley		9	6	0	3	24 21 18					
DOC Utd		10	4	0	6	21 21 12					
Whitehorse Utd		8	2	0	6	12 34 6					
Ashburton		9	1	1	7	11 52 4					
Ringwood City		10	0	1	9	11 54 1					

Boys	18					Purple
		P	W	D	L	F A PT
FC Bulleen Lions		10	8	2	0	30 14 22
Richmond		10	7	1	2	30 9 9
South Melbourne		9	7	0	2	25 11 21
Sunshine George Cross		10	5	2	3	21 13 17
Dandenong Thunder		9	3	3	3	15 15 12
Green Gully Cavaliers		9	3	1	5	18 14 10
Heidelberg Utd		9	2	4	3	15 20 7
Altona Magic		9	1	2	6	9 26 5
Northcote City		9	0	4	5	15 35 4
Oakleigh Cannons		10	0	3	7	11 32 3

Boys	18	South-East	-				Eastern			
			P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Oakleigh Cannons			9	7	2	0	36	9	23	
Southern Suburbs			10	7	0	0	32	8	21	
Eastern Lions			9	5	2	2	27	16	17	
Riversdale			10	5	2	3	27	17	17	
Bentleigh Greens			9	5	1	3	33	14	16	
Brighton			9	5	1	3	33	16	16	
FC Bulleen Lions			10	5	0	5	51	17	15	
East Bentleigh			9	2	0	7	17	50	6	
Manningham			10	1	2	7	15	51	31	
Bayside Argonauts			9	0	0	2	9	25	0	

Monday 28th June 2010

Monday 28th June 2010

Inter back in the box seat

By Emma Fields

Box Hill Inter recorded a huge 5-0 victory over Asburton to launch them back into contention for the top spot in the league in round 11 of the Womens Premier League (WPL) on the weekend.

Bendigo Vipers drew with South Melbourne halting South's return to form and Altona notched up their second win of the year over Casey Comets.

The final game of the round, which will determine the top of the league, will be played Monday night between Heidelberg United and Sandringham. The Bergers have a game in hand, but a loss will see Inter reclaim the top position in the league on their impressive goal difference.

Box Hill Inter bounced back after a shock draw to South Melbourne last week and a loss to Casey in round nine to smash the fourth placed Ashburton.

Aleksandra Sinclair and Natalie Exon both scored a brace for Inter and Deanna Niceski was the other goal scorer for the reigning WPL Premiers.

The win by Inter, their biggest since round 16 last year, has finally shown the potential of the team which has captured the WPL premiership sixth time in eight years.

This year Inter has the bonus of returning W-League players, such as Louisa Bisby, Tal Karp and Jessica Humble following the shift in policy of the National Training Centre program which, in 2009, prevented players from Melbourne Victory from playing in the WPL.

Box Hill also recruited several new W-League players including New Zealand national player, Marlies Oostdam and young talent Ursula Hughson. They also have the biggest weapon in the womens game between the uprights in Matilda captain Melissa Barbieri.

Inter's victory is all the more impressive given it was against Ashburton, which have showed form this year notching up five wins to sit in fourth place. But this is Ashburton's third loss on the trot marking a mid-season slump for the Chis Michaille's team.

Altona City, the new team to the league in 2010, grabbed their second win of the season, coming from behind to defeat Casey Comets 3-2 at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

The defeat ended the Comets run of wins over the past three weeks and is a lost opportunity for them to break into the top four following Ashburton's loss.

Altona held good possession in the first half but it was the Comets which scored from their first decent shot of the game when Talia Silvestros found the back of the net.

The home team responded in emphatic fashion blasting two goals in the first four minutes of the second half – a lead they held onto for the remainder of the match.

Christine Fonua got the equaliser two minutes after the major break to put the teams on equal terms and Alex Miller scored Altona's second goal minutes later to grab the lead.

Altona held that momentum when Kerri Little found the net for the home team to give them a 3-1 buffer.

The Comets showed they were not done with Altona and snatched a consolation goal four minutes from full time, but Altona held on for their second win of the season.

Altona coach Paul Kilpatrick was understandably pleased with the effort of his young team against a quality opposition, especially since the team is missing five of their regular starters due to injury.

“Casey are a good side, but I felt we dominated the game,” Kilpatrick said after the match. “The girls competed for 90 minutes and we had a few players that were pretty much down on form in the first half but after half time everyone lifted as a team.”

“To go 3-1 up to a team...that will go close to



Neither goalie Ingrid Philippe nor Rosie Bureta (right) can stop Natalie Econ from scoring for Box Hill.
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

playing finals this year (Casey Comets), it was good. I felt we deserved the three points and it was just a good team effort,” he said.

Despite the win Altona remain in second last position, but they are equal on points with South Melbourne, on goal difference. Casey remain in fifth position, level on points with fourth placed Ashburton, but below on goal difference.

In the other game of the round South Melbourne and Bendigo Vipers fought out a one-all draw at McIvor Reserve on Sunday afternoon. Both teams have similar records over the past three weeks notching up a win and two draws and hitting some form half way through the season.

The Vipers came into this game following a huge moral boosting win over third placed Sandringham last week and they took a 1-0 lead in the first half when midfielder Paige Conder was on target, and they took this advantage into the break.

In the second half South hit back through Penny Bakopoulos to level the match 1-1 and neither team was able to break the deadlock before the final whistle.

South Melbourne have shown marked improvement over the past three games after a disaster start to season, which saw them unable to win a game until round five.

The return of Laura Spiranovic and the appointment of new coach Alan Davidson seems to have improved the fortunes of South Melbourne, which had their best season ever in 2009 finishing third.

Next week the Vipers face the formidable task of playing Box Hill at home on Friday night while South Melbourne will have their work cut out for them when they take on Heidelberg. Ashburton will be hoping to get their season back on track when they play Altona at home and Preston will be back in action after a week off to play Sandringham.



Christine Pfeiffer (Ashburton) wins the header against Tal Karp (Box Hill) and the ball is headed for the sea of mud in the centre of Ashburton Park. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

WPL RESULTS

Altona City 3 (A Miller)
Casey Comets 2
(T Silvestros NJ Prins)

South Melbourne Womens 1
(P Bakopoulos)
Bendigo Vipers 1 (P Conder)

Ashburton 0
Box Hill Inter 5
(D Niceski A Sinclair 2 N Exon 2)

Reserves:
Altona City 0 Casey Comets 2,
South Melbourne 3 BASL 0, Ashburton 0 Box Hill Inter 1

WPL NEXT ROUND

Box Hill Inter v Bendigo Vipers
Wembley Park
Sat 10 Jul KO 3:00PM

Preston Lions v Sandringham
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 11 Jul KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Altona City
Ashburton Park
Sun 11 Jul KO 3:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v South Melbourne
Olympic Park (Village)
Mon 12 Jul KO 8:30PM

Bye v Casey Comets

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Inter	10	6	3	1	25	7	21
Heidelberg Utd	9	7	0	2	25	9	21
Sandringham	9	5	2	2	13	10	17
Ashburton	9	5	0	4	22	18	15
Casey Comets	10	5	0	5	19	17	15
Bendigo Vipers	10	3	3	4	10	15	12
South Melbourne	10	2	2	6	10	20	8
Altona City	10	2	2	6	7	19	8
Preston Lions	9	1	2	6	9	25	5

WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashburton	9	6	2	1	29	7	20
Casey Comets	10	6	1	3	21	9	19
Sandringham	9	6	1	2	18	11	19
Heidelberg Utd	8	5	2	1	18	6	17
South Melbourne	10	4	3	3	18	12	15
Box Hill Inter	10	4	2	4	18	14	14
BASL	10	3	1	6	11	29	10
Altona City	9	1	1	7	10	24	4
Preston Lions	9	0	1	8	4	35	1

For more WPL news visit Emma's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com>

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RICHMOND EAGLES



1

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



1

Match Details:

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola, D.Tsiaras, J.Krnecvic, D.Visevic (M.Lujic 71'), M.Ferrante, A.Kovacic, M.Bissinger, T.Milardovic, S.Topalovic, D. van' t Schip (M.Catalano 66').

Goal: Tsiaras 46'

Yellow Cards: Krnecvic 64' Tsiaras 74'

Red Cards: None

Melbourne Knights: S.Mattei, R.Filipovic, A.Bran, L.Cannell (D.Gleize 81'), J.Magdic, I.Praiz (G.Adjini 82'), K.Townson, A.Zahra, T.Skara, A.Colosimo, J.Colosimo.

Goal: J.Colosimo 70'

Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Steven Topalovic (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Crowd: 450

Points shared at a wet KB

By Mark Boric

Friday's rainfall threatened the opening fixture of Round 16 in the VPL, but with the postponement of the Under 21's game and some solid work in clearing surface water in the penalty area, referee Shaun Evans gave the game the go ahead at 7.45 p.m.

Leaders Richmond, thumped 3-0 by Heidelberg United the previous week, brought in Mitch Bissinger at right back for his first senior start for the club, moving Steven Topalovic into midfield, with Davey van' t Schip also starting a game for the Eagles for the first time. The Knights, after their vital 2-1 win over Hume City, were missing Ben Surey and Danny Tiatto. Jacob Colosimo and Liam Cannell came into the starting eleven.

In the first minute Steven Topalovic found Jesse Krnecvic down the line on the right, who got into the corner and sent in a cross which saw Daniel Visevic concede a needless foul when challenging with a defender. Six minutes later Davey van' t Schip fired in a tame shot at Sebastian Mattei from twenty-five yards. Shortly after a cross from Visevic on the right saw Dimtri Tsiaras head at goal from the far post, Mattei scrambling back to grab the ball as it bounced towards the line. The rain had now eased and the pitch was playing well.

The lively Kevin Townson was fouled by Andrew Viola in the twelfth minute, Townson taking the free kick on the right flank and chipping the ball into the penalty area where it was comfortably held by Stjepan Gal. A corner for Richmond

then saw the ball bounce around the box, a goalbound strike from Visevic being blocked and the ball being laid back out to the corner taker Michael Ferrante who curled a shot well over the crossbar.

Antun Kovacic was called upon to clear the ball away in the twentieth minute after Townson had beaten two men and entered the penalty area on a great run. Jacob Colosimo fired a shot from thirty yards which didn't trouble Gal before Adrian Zahra shot well over the target from long range.

A foul on Tsiaras gave Ferrante a free kick from thirty yards. His shot produced a great save from Mattei to tip wide, van' t Schip blasting the rebound high and wide from a difficult angle. On the half hour mark a counter attack for the Eagles saw Kovacic surge forward, getting beyond the centre circle and finding Ferrante further forward on the right. Ferrante got past a man and raced into the box, going to ground as he turned another man to make space for a shot, but the referee dismissed vigorous appeals for a penalty.

Late in the half Ferrante fired over the goal from distance, and Tsiaras had a shot blocked. The final minute saw Tsiaras win the ball in a tackle deep in his own half and carry the ball before finding Visevic in the centre circle. Visevic sent the ball out to Krnecvic on the left who got down the line and then cut into the box before ballooning a shot well off target, leaving the game scoreless at the break.

The game was not to remain scoreless for much longer, with Richmond taking the lead within a minute of play resuming. After a move down the left broke down, Visevic switched play to Bissinger on the



Dimi Tsiaras scores with a diving header to give Richmond the lead.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

right. He brought the ball forward before sending in a cross to the far post, which found Tsiaras most desperate for it as it bounced near the six yard box to send the ball over Mattei with a diving header.

Three minutes later a good shot from twenty yards from Visevic forced a save from Mattei, with Krnecvic caught offside as he attempted to pounce on the rebound. The Knights tried to fight their way back into the game, Zahra shooting over the goal in the forty-eighth minute before Anthony Colosimo found Liam Cannell on the left who had a threatening shot blocked by Viola. Josip Magdic then had a header saved by Gal in the fifty-sixth minute.

A great switch of play by van' t Schip from the right got the ball to Visevic in a promising position, but his inside ball to Krnecvic saw the offside flag raised. A ball from Townson released Cannell on a tight angle, and his shot flew across the face of goal. Then in the seventieth minute the Knights drew level. A ricochet from a tackle by Anthony Bran saw the ball fall for Jacob Colosimo inside the box. His shot took a deflection, looping over the stranded Gal and bouncing into the back of the net to set up an intense finish.

Anthony Colosimo soon put a shot wide, after cutting in from the left. A great run from Topalovic came to an end with the offside flag raised get again when he passed inside to Krnecvic. The game remained open, Zahra switching the ball from the

left to Cannell on the right who shot just over the bar. Townson received the ball from the left and a smart turn was followed by a shot across the face of goal in the seventy-sixth minute.

Michael Catalano brought the ball down the right for Richmond before switching the ball left, Krnecvic stepping over the ball to allow an overlapping Ferrante to run onto it, the shot flying across the face of goal and going wide of the post by inches. A run across the middle of the park from Viola finished with a pass out to Krnecvic on the right, who shot on the turn and forced a good save from Mattei.

Following a foul on Topalovic the Eagles got a free kick on the right. Ferrante sent the ball to the far post where Kovacic had his header saved. A cross from Milos Lujic was cleared amidst a mild shout for a penalty for handball, before Viola put in a vital effort to block a shot from Magdic to ensure both sides would have to settle for a point from a 1-1 draw.

With the rest of the top three not playing until Monday night, the point helps keep Richmond at the top of the table over the weekend. Their next game is a big clash with third-placed Hume City at Broadmeadows Valley Park on Sunday week. The same day the Knights will host Oakleigh Cannons needing more points to get them away from the relegation zone.



Jacob Colosimo scores for the Knights to earn a share of the spoils.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

SOUTH MELBOURNE



2

DANDENONG THUNDER



3

Match Details:

South Melbourne:
Peter Zois, Rhodri Payne, Steven O'Dor, Daniel Vasilevski (Marinos Gasparis 78'), Joe Keenan, Carl Recchia, Rama Tavsancioglu, Fernando De Moraes (Joseph Youssef 15'), Kyle Joryeff, James Stefanou (Hamid Basma 74'), Sebastian Petrovic
(Goal scorers: Kyle Joryeff 60', Steven O'Dor 64')

Dandenong Thunder:
Stuart Webster, Levent Osman, Shane Rexhepi, Aron Wilford, Luke Sherborn, Ben Starosta, Jeffrey Bright, Ryan Davidson, Geoffrey Kellaway, Scott Bulloch, Jamie Reed (Veton Korcarevski 85')
(Goal scorers: Jamie Reed 7', 66' pk, Scott Bulloch 10')

Man of the Match: Stuart Webster (Dandenong Thunder)
Venue: Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Date: Sunday 27 June 2010
Attendance: 1,000

Humdinger battle at Kingston

By John Kyrrou

Dandenong Thunder has emerged victorious over South Melbourne FC in a controversial match on Sunday afternoon at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. After South had clawed its way back from a 0-2 deficit to level the scores at 2-2, a penalty awarded to the Thunder for a handball on defender Steven O'Dor won the away side the three points.

Both clubs went into the match desperate for three points in order to steer further away from the relegation zone as well as push for finals contention. Dandenong flew out of the blocks early and stunned South with two goals in the opening ten minutes. The opening goal came after seven minutes when South defender Rhodri Payne's mistimed chest pass fell straight to Jamie Reed, who from a short distance out from goal fired an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net. Three minutes later the Thunder were two goals ahead when South's defenders fell asleep at the back post and Scott Bulloch was lurking to tap home past Peter Zois.

Payne nearly made up for his earlier error by making an excellent run into the area before firing a low shot that beat Dandenong goalkeeper Stuart Webster but hit his near post and stayed out. Kyle Joryeff then missed a glorious chance to open South's account when he was put through

one-on-one with Webster but he shot wide. Just before halftime, the match looked like turning nasty when Dandenong's Luke Sherborn was given a straight red card for a poor challenge on Daniel Vasilevski, before Carl Recchia was booked a minute later for pushing over a Dandenong player.

South were more desperate after the break and scored in the 60th minute, after Joryeff pounced on the loose ball following a mistake in the Dandenong defence and put the ball past Webster to halve the deficit. South continued to press forward in numbers and equalised four minutes later when Joryeff's corner flew past over sea of bodies to the back post where O'Dor was on hand to tap home. With the scores level, 25 minutes left to play and an extra man on the field, South had suddenly put themselves into a possible winning position. This was to change dramatically by the time the full time whistle was blown.

Dandenong had still been looking dangerous on the counter-attack and won a corner shortly after kicking off following O'Dor's goal. The in-swinging corner looked to be comfortably dealt with by the South defence before the referee made the controversial decision to penalise O'Dor for handling the ball and award Dandenong a penalty. The incident was not clear and fans of both clubs will no doubt be watching smfctv this week to see whether the



The Thunder are full of roar after Jamie Reed converted his spot kick.

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

decision was correct, however the reaction of the South players toward the refereeing decision was one of complete shock. Reed put away the spot kick for his second goal for the afternoon and the Thunder's third.

South played out the game with the majority of possession but could not find a way to score again. Webster made some outstanding saves and his defenders did a great job in front of him. More controversial moments arose, firstly when an apparent handball on the goal line by a Dandenong defender was not spotted and secondly when a nicely-weighted Dandenong through-ball was flagged as offside when it looked like the Thunder forward was onside. The final controversial moment of the game was in injury time when South captain Rama Tavsancioglu was sent off for bringing down a Thunder player as last man when it hardly looked like a foul had been committed.

South now must desperately win its catch-up match against Altona Magic at John Cain Memorial Park next Sunday to avoid potentially slipping into the bottom two. Dandenong has a week off before facing bottom side Altona Magic at George Andrews Reserve on 10 July.



Action aplenty at Kingston Heath yesterday. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



South's Rama Tavsancioglu pleads his innocence, but he referee has no hesitation to show the red card and award a spot kick. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



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OAKLEIGH CANNONS



HEIDELBERG UNITED

Squad Lists:

Oakleigh Cannons	
1	Sohail FORYABEE
2	Jamie CUMMING
5	John FITZGERALD
6	Stelios DRAKOS
7	Ljuban PALINIC
8	Bonnell OBRADOVIC
10	Ricky DIACO
12	Ashley SAVANAH
13	Bill DAMIANOS
14	Jerry KARPEH
15	Yusuf YUSUF
16	Dean PANAGOPOULOS
17	Cameron WATSON
18	Michael CURCIJA
19	Bill GASAPARANTOS
20	Aristidis DRAKOS
21	Neven ANTIC
23	Nick KALMAR
25	Scott WEBSTER
30	Griffin MCMASTER
35	Scott AGUSTIN

Heidelberg United	
1	Christian MORALES
2	Phil WARNER
3	Les DOUMBALIS
4	Paul CARDILLO
5	Sayeedreza HOSSAINI
6	Paul MILLER
7	Antonio LA VERDE
8	Hrvoje MATKOVIC
9	George SLEFENDORFAS
10	Josip KOSIC
11	Nicholas MARINOS
12	Yared HAILEMELKOT
13	Luke BYLES
14	Craig ELVIN
16	Steve MARTIN
18	Osagie EDERARO
19	Adilson ANDRADE DEL MELO
20	Saso ALEXOVSKI
21	Denis ALILOVIC
23	Steve TILOVSKI
	Rinor MURIQI
	Ilker KUYUCU
	Jason KOUTSODONTIS
	Yanni GALANOS

Can the Cannons Halt the ‘Bergers Run?

By John Fotinos

Monday night football in the VPL sees Round 16 action with Oakleigh Cannons hosting Heidelberg United at Jack Edwards Reserve. This is in addition to the Sunshine George Cross versus Hume City clash at Knights Stadium on the same night.

Despite their relative positions on the ladder, the two teams have had contrasting fortunes of late. Oakleigh come into tonight’s fixture having lost their past two matches, and in the process have dropped from top of the table into outright second. Their opponents, Heidelberg, remain undefeated in six matches, having enjoyed a mid-season renaissance to climb off the foot of the table. Such has been their run of form, they easily accounted for top of the table Richmond 3-0 in their last start.

Positions on the table from fourth

to last are so tightly contested, that should the visiting Heidelberg take all three points, they will climb into seventh spot on the table. However, should Oakleigh bounce back and win the match, it will regain top spot on the table from Richmond.

Of the two teams, Heidelberg has been the busier in the recent transfer period, signing striker George Slefendorfas from Queensland and welcoming back former striker Nicholas Marinos after his two year stint playing for Zakynthos in the Greek League. With the improvement in form in the back half from Craig Elvin, Luke Byles, Steve Martin & keeper Steven Tilovski, the team has achieved consecutive clean sheets, and will be aiming to make it three in a row. Oakleigh managed to sign Yusef Yusef from South Melbourne, as the attacking midfielder looks to re-ignite his VPL career after a somewhat frustrating stint at South Melbourne.

In Round 5 of this season, the

points were shared at the Olympic Village following a 1-1 draw, with Michael Curcija’s second half strike for Oakleigh cancelling out Osagie Ederaro’s first half goal for Heidelberg. With Yanni Galanos & Denis Alilovic available for selection, Heidelberg go into the match at virtually full strength, missing only defender Johnny Lazaridis. However, the visitors will need to break Oakleigh’s long-standing sequence of dominance at Jack Edwards Reserve over it. Since Heidelberg’s return to the VPL in 2005, it has yet to beat Oakleigh at this venue in five attempts, its best result being a 0-0 draw back in 2007. In fact, Heidelberg has netted just once in those five matches, with Osagie Ederaro scoring in a 4-1 win to Oakleigh in the 2009 opening round of matches.

Oakleigh will no doubt be looking for an improvement in their finishing in front of goal, with strikers Jerry Karpeh & Ricky Diaco look-

ing to the midfield to provide plenty of drive, particularly from the creative Billy Damianos. They will also look to veteran Stelios Drakos at the heart of defence to curb the dangerous & in-form Aleksovski from Heidelberg. For their part, Heidelberg need their midfield general Josip Kozic to be at the top of his game for any chance of a positive outcome. As for a potential outcome in this game, a low-scoring draw would not surprise at the end of the night.

In fixtures to come for both clubs, Oakleigh travel to Knights Stadium on Sunday, July 11, to take on the Melbourne Knights, following a weekend off. Heidelberg United face a crucial week ahead - with effectively just a three-day break - backing up this Friday night with a catch-up fixture away to Bentleigh Greens, before hosting arch-rival South Melbourne on Sunday, July 11.



Oakleigh’s Jerry Karpeh and Heidelberg’s Craig Elvin will compete for the points tonight at Jack Edwards Reserve.
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

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